Plan for the Maintenance and Improvement of Historical Scenic Beauty of Kyoto

<The Popular Edition>

Kyoto City
1 Outline of the plan
Kyoto city is blessed with seasonal natural beauty. The downtown is surrounded by gentle and green mountains on three sides. The city is gifted by limpid river such as Kamo River and Katsura River. Kyoto, this cradle of civilization has nurtured multifaceted culture that represents Japan. This rich historical property is still preserved in the city. Bestowed by beautiful nature and rich historical properties, Kyoto city has acquired its own scenic beauty and local touch where people can live with traditional culture and event. Kyoto city plans to preserve this natural beauty, traditional and historical values and pass it over to the future generation.

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[Planning period (FY2010 to FY2019)]

Historical Scenic Beauty (The Article of Law governing Historical Town Planning)
The law stipulates Historical Scenic Beauty as “a favourable environment of the center of the city where the activities that reflect regional unique histories and traditions of the people and the historically precious structures and their surrounding are united.
(1) **Background of the formation of the historical scenic beauty of Kyoto**

**Geography, climate and weather**
- Kyoto city is a basin surrounded by low mountain ranges such as the east, north, and west mountain ranges.
- The mountains are covered with green; and the city has rich flowing rivers such as Kamo River and Katsura River. The combination of the above two are called “Purple Mountains and Clear Waters”
- Kyoto has four distinctive seasons because of the Pacific Ocean type weather and the inland type weather (hot and humid in summer and chilly winters that penetrate the bone)

These diverse variations have cultivated the sense of four seasons and the sense of beauty.

**History**
- Kyoto is a city that has more than 1200 year history after the relocation of the capital from Heijokyo and Nagaokakyo to Heiankyo (Kyoto).
- Kyoto’s culture, lifestyle and historical architectures developed and got refined going through different periods of history and has finally been handed down till today.

**Social Environment**
- Of the total city area, 74% consists of forests, 4.2% arable land, and 17% urban area.
- As an industrial city, Kyoto has both the traditional and advanced industries which co-exist and have also merged.
- As an academic capital, Kyoto is known as a university city.
- Suburb residents of Kyoto are actively engaged in agriculture, producing Kyoto Vegetables, known as Kyo Yasai.
- Kyoto as an International Cultural and Tourism City has attracted many people from old times. The number of visitors from home and abroad exceeds 50 million per year.

**Culture**
- Traditional industries: Besides the traditional industries such as Nishijin Textile, Yuzen dyeing, Kyo-yaki and Kiyomizu-yaki pottery that has been designated as traditional handicrafts, many other traditional industries are concentrated in Kyoto.
- Traditional arts: These include conducting tea ceremony, the art of flower arrangement, literature, Gagaku ensemble music, Noh play, Kyogen comic play and Kabuki drama
- Food culture: It consists of Kyoto cuisine, Kyoto Vegetables, Sake, pickles and other food items
- Traditional events: Aoi Festival, Gion Festival, Bonfire on five mountains, Jidai Festival and other traditional events take place in all four seasons
The historical scenic beauty of Kyoto to be maintained and improved

The historical scenic beauty of Kyoto is composed of rich nature, urban space and a historical and cultural property nurtured as a result of being the historical and cultural capital for over 1000 years. Cultural events and the artistic activities conducted by people who inherited traditions while seeking innovation also played an important role in these developments. Consequently, a culture that is the only one of its type in the world and Japan emerged. Having a dignified and elegant atmosphere, the historical scenic beauty of Kyoto can be explained from six angles.

Kyoto, the city of prayer and religious faith
Visitors to local temples and shrines including those designated as the world cultural heritage, and activities of the people in the vicinity of these temples and shrines in receiving those visitors.

Kyoto, the city hosting with How and festivity and in usual day activities. Festivals in four seasons, lifestyle of Kyomachiya (town houses), local dzobon festivals, elementary schools, the historical sites such as Nijo Castle and Kyoto Gion Park. These spots are the cradle of special events that people have inherited until today.

Kyoto, the city of manufacturing, commerce and hospitality
Traditional manufacturing, trade and hospitality take place in the areas such as Nishijin, Nishiki market and entertainment quarters, respectively in the area where historical Kyomachiya are located.

Kyoto, the city of culture and arts
Noh play, Kyogen comic play, tea ceremony, fine arts and other cultural and artistic activities have been passed down till today. To support these activities, the aforesaid cultures and arts are being practiced at temples, and Kyomachiya.

Kyoto, the city of tradition and innovative spirit
Both the traditional buildings represented by Kyomachiya and the modern western born ones have undergone modernization after Meiji Era which was acquired by the activities supported by tradition and innovative spirit.

The historical scenic beauty in suburbs
Fushimi and other areas along the old trunk roads used to be closely related to the Capital city. These areas inherited the traditional festivals and businesses from the ancient times until today.

Source: "Kyomachiya no Saisei" edited by the Kyomachiya Center for Community Collaboration. Photo taken by Matsusaka Mizuno Photo Studio (Matsusaka Mizuno, Hiroshi Mizuno and Koyo Mizuno) Contributed by Taishiki Preservation Society Provided by Executive Committee for Pottery Festival the 21st Citizens' Kyogen Performance
(3) The significance and basic direction of maintenance and improvement of the historical scenic beauty of Kyoto.

**Significance**

Maintaining and improving the historical scenic beauty of Kyoto has the following significance:

- It will encourage the conservation and development of the traditional culture and industry of Kyoto and that of Japan and help passing them to the next generation.
- It will encourage the residents who have loved and been proud of developing their own towns by themselves, to develop and protect proper daily life standards and protect the autonomy of the citizens and their tradition.
- It will help developing an eco-friendly and sophisticated wood culture. This includes the development of the town with wooden buildings like temples, shrines and Kyo-machiya, and the improvement of lifestyle and traditional local culture.
- It will help improving the charm and colour of Kyoto as a historical city. This means that task of maintenance and improvement of the historical and scenic beauty of Kyoto and the betterment of Kyoto brand has to be consolidated. The characteristic value, charm and attraction of the city is to be improved in such a way that people would want to live or continue living here.

**Basic direction**

In order to maintain and improve the unique historical scenic beauty of Kyoto, the following seven points are to be implemented for the development of Kyoto as a historical city.

- Conserve and promote historical buildings and make use of them in the development of the city.
- Develop the city in a dignified manner that could be appropriate for Kyoto as a historical city.
- Promote local forces to develop the city.
- Adopt a policy of co-existence with nature and wood culture.
- Develop the joy of walking in the city. Citizens have to take the lead.
- Promote the use of traditional industry
- Promote the use of arts and culture

Maintenance and improvement of the historical scenic beauty
Designation of priority areas

Since the establishment of Heiankyo capital, Kyoto has inherited both material and spiritual historical characteristics during the 1200 years period. These assets have permeated into the daily lives of the citizens and have created the unique historical scenic beauty of Kyoto.

The areas with historical scenic beauty are scattered throughout the city. Among them, some areas are regarded as to need intense and total maintenance and development. These areas are designated as priority areas.

It is emphasized that the support projects should be implemented quickly on the first priority areas mentioned in this plan where historical architectures and cultural assets are concentrated. The reasons are as follows:

1. Old Urban Type Aesthetic Districts and Historical Asset Type Aesthetic Districts where strict regulation is imposed by Landscape Act in order to prevent historical scenic beauty from disappearing because of urbanization.
2. It is expected that the support program should be applied on projects such as the development of underground power supply routes and roads improvement.

The following four areas are designated as priority areas.

① Kamigamo district
② Historical urban district
③ Toji Temple historical urban district
④ Fushimi historical urban district

What is priority area?
Areas where intense and total maintenance and improvement of the historical scenic beauty is felt necessary; and those ones that meet the following criteria are designated as priority areas

- Land designated by the national government as important cultural property, important folklore property, part of historical sites, places of scenic beauty and natural monuments.
- Land in the Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings.

Directives for designating priority areas in the future
Besides the aforesaid points, there are many other historical architectures and places of scenic beauty, including world heritage sites at the foot of three mountain ranges and along the old trunk roads. These assets will remind people of their historical heritage. They are utilized for the activities of local people and would contribute to the love for their communities. From now on, the city expects to promote the development of the historical city on the basis of town management in the local communities, encouraging suggestions from the citizens, and collaboration with other projects.
(5) Location of priority areas

As of November 2009

- Kamigamo district
- Historical urban district
- Toji Temple historical urban district
- Fushimi historical urban district

Kamigamo district
Historical urban district
Toji Temple historical urban district
Fushimi historical urban district
(6) Projects that contribute to the preservation and improvement of historical scenic beauty

Kyoto city executed historical city planning by promoting preservation and betterment of historical scenic beauty of Kyoto such as eliminating electrical poles and constructing underground power supply routes instead, decoration of roads, and the utilizing national governmental subsidy for the renovation and repair of historical architectures.

**Projects for the conservation and renovation of historical architectures**
Conserve and renovate the historical architectures and historical sites that are spread in Kyoto city and pass them down to the next generation.

**Projects for the repair and renovation of historical architectures**
Historical architectures such as Kaburenjo theatre, traditional sake breweries, Machiya (town houses) should be designated as historical scenic beauty architectures; and financial support must be provided for the repair of the roofs and other parts of these sites.

**Projects for constructing underground power supply routes and beautifying the streets**
The power poles should be eliminated and an underground power supply routes should be developed. Furthermore, streets should be decorated so that the city's appearance would match the historical townscape.

**City park Projects**
Implement the redevelopment of park and inner moat of Yodo castle ruins.

**Projects for the preservation of cultural heritage and its surroundings - preparing disaster prevention water supply**
- Gear up fire protection tanks and fire hydrants at Higashiyama, Kiyomizu area where a group of historical architectures and cultural heritage assets are concentrated.
- Conduct drills to prepare the community for disaster prevention and improve their skills in this field.

**Traditional culture conservation and revitalization project** (whole city)
-那些 can be felt by five senses.
  - Designate “The Day of Traditional industries” so that on this day people can experience numerous events related to traditional industries.
  - Creation of projects through which citizens and tourists can comfortably enjoy, touch, feel, and experience traditional Japanese culture.

**Other planned projects listed**
- Investigation on Kyo-machiya community management/ Kyo-machiya Community Management Fund/ Formulating the guideline for preserving and revitalizing forest scenery of the three mountains/ Rewarding and nurturing artisans with distinct skills in traditional industry/ Carrying on Kyoto Cultural Festivals/ Implementing the project “A city that cherishes wood culture”/ A project promoting forest thinning and using the by-products as road accessories/ Formulating a guideline for the design of Kyoto streets/ Improving tourist information signboards/ Making Kyoto a “Walkable city”
Designation of structures that compose historical scenic beauty

Designation of structures composing historical scenic beauty

Among the historical structures in Kyoto, those located in priority areas which are recognized as being important in maintaining and improving the historical scenic beauty, are designated as “Structures Composing Historical Scenic Beauty”.

Designation policy

The following structures (buildings or architectural structures) with excellent traditional and historical design having historical value, distinct local features and are closely related to the historical scenic beauty are designated as “structures composing historical scenic beauty”. This includes not only the structures but also their vicinities as well as the gates, walls and gardens.

<Expected cases>
Meeting places and stations for Gion Festival; Kyo-machiya town houses, venues for people’s daily lives and businesses; Shake priest’s houses; Teahouses at entertainment quarters; modern western buildings and Sake warehouses.

Among following structures, ones closely related to the historical scenic beauty are positively designated.

Cultural properties designated by the national government, Kyoto Prefecture and Kyoto City
Structures of landscape importance, structures of historical design based on Ordinance on Development of Urban Landscape, and structures located in the Community Landscape Development Districts and the Historical Landscape Conservation and Adjustment Districts.