

GRAND VISION OF KYOTO for the 21st CENTURY
The Master Concept of Kyoto City

21世紀・京都のグランドビジョン

京都市基本構想



くらしに安らぎ
まちに華やき
21世紀の京都



1999(平成11)年12月



京都市

English

Korean

한 글

Chinese

中 文

Japanese

に ぽん こ
日本語

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— Introduction —

“The Master Concept of Kyoto City,” Grand Vision of Kyoto for the 21st century, describes the direction and doctrine of civic life and city development, which the citizens will lead up to the year 2025.

This concept makes the best use of the dreams and hopes of those living in Kyoto, as well as nationwide and all over the world. The Committee of the Master Concept of Kyoto City, which is composed by 90 members including ordinary citizens, has been deliberating for a year. Based on a report written by the committee, this concept has been formulated with the approval of the assembly.

“The Next Master Plan” and “The Plan of Administrative District Divisions” are expected to be formulated in order to achieve this concept. “The Next Master Plan” details concrete policies for the whole city, while “The Plan of Administrative District Divisions” is a guidance for creating attractive districts making use of unique characteristics in each district. The city government is determined to execute municipal administration in partnership with every citizen of Kyoto.

English

The System of the Comprehensive Program <The City Doctrine (The Ideal of the City)>

Declaration of Kyoto as a City Open to the Free Exchange of World Cultures

(Declared on October 15, 1978)

Any city is in need of some ideal. When the ideal is based upon an accurate evaluation of conditions in the world and upon a deep reflection on its proper traditions, and if the citizens endeavour to realize that ideal, then that city can be expected to play an important role in the historical development of the world. In this spirit we have decided to declare the city of Kyoto to be a culturally free city, open to the exchange of the cultures of the world.

A free city for international cultural exchange is one where peoples of any country may assemble freely and in peace, regardless of race, creed or social system, for the purpose of cultural exchange.

Kyoto is an ancient city which has preserved old cultural heritages and scenic natural beauty for over one thousand years. We cannot, however, merely take pride in past glories, nor live isolated. We must communicate widely with the world, and through international exchanges Kyoto must be always renewed culturally and continue to create her own unique culture. It is our hope, therefore, to make Kyoto a center of international cultural exchange.

A declaration of ideals is, of course, much easier than its execution, but we, the citizens of Kyoto, would like calmly to make this resolution and pledge our efforts towards what we can do for the realization of this ideal.



<Basic Policies of the Kyoto City Government>

The Master Concept of Kyoto City

(Formulated on December 17, 1999)

Long-term concept for the development of Kyoto City in the 21st century

Target year : 2025

<Plans of Each Section>

<Plans of Each District>

The Next Master Plan

The Plan of Administrative District

Plan to show principal policies and projects of the whole city for embodiment of The Master Concept of Kyoto City

Target year : 2010

Guidance for creating attractive districts making use of characteristics in each district based on The Master Concept of Kyoto City

Target year : 2010

The Master Concept of Kyoto City

Preface

"The Master Concept of Kyoto City" describes a vision of Kyoto for the first quarter of the 21st century.

Kyoto is determined to be "a city open to the free exchange of world cultures" and so, made a declaration to the world in 1978. In order to come close to this ideal, Kyoto formulated "The Master Concept of Kyoto City" in 1983 with a vision towards the year 2000. This achievement says that the city will keep developing, but at the same time preserve its tradition. For the further development of Kyoto, "The Master Plan of Kyoto City" was launched in 1985 and "The New Master Plan of Kyoto City" in 1993. Kyoto also promoted "The Kyoto Plan in the Heisei Era" to become the capital of culture for the 21st century. Kyoto has played a role as "a city open to the world," because Kyoto is a place where people of the world feel free to gather in peace, regardless of race, creed, or social system, for the purpose of cultural exchange. Kyoto was elected as the leading city of the League of Historical Cities in 1996, and was the venue for the 3rd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP3) in 1997, where the Kyoto Protocol was made. Kyoto has been expected to make full use of the wisdom gained in its long history and to pursue an ideal way of civilization.

At the turning of the century, the state of society and the economy has been changing beyond expectations. The change may even affect the principles of Japanese society, which were set up in the Meiji Era, or the ultimate objective of society after World War II. This seems to change people's everyday lives. At this period in history, each of us must take pride in being a citizen of Kyoto, feel responsible for participating in municipal administration and work out a design for our city and its people, revising our way of life.

From the point of view of the citizen of Kyoto, we hereby describe the kind of life and the type of city we expect to lead up to the year 2025. It is believed that Kyoto will perform municipal administration in a synthetic and systematic way so as to achieve the way the life and city should be, which is shown in this master concept. Those who are affiliated with Kyoto, the people and organizations, as well as residents are expected to get involved in the realization of this conception.

Chapter 1 Civic Life of Kyoto

Section 1 The Turning of Civilizations

Despite being devastated by World War II, Japan has formed an "affluent" society, where people enjoy longer lives than those in other societies, at a remarkably high speed. However, at the turning of century, Japan is forced to reform the structure of its society because of a decline in economic growth, pressure caused by a longer life span and low birth rate.

In particular, consumerism has brought a great amount of waste and environmental disruption. We have almost lost the age-old idea that we should take great care of the environment. As a result, our lives and civilization are threatened. Now, Japanese people have realized the limits of modern civilization. Contrary to our modern way of life of mass production, consumption and waste, it is absolutely necessary to establish a sustainable society in harmony

with the environment. This is what we are responsible for as a legacy for future generations.

Japan's systems such as politics, administration, finance, business management and education, which were believed to work well, are becoming unreliable in the 21st century. If these systems are left unimproved, society may collapse at the fundamental level. In order to solve the problems we are confronting today and lead a sustainable society, it is vital to reform the systems, which should be reliable for generations to come.

As these problems are directly related to civic life, solutions are urgently required. Furthermore, most of the problems should not be dealt with by one city alone, but in cooperation with the national government and other cities. Taking this into consideration, we must seek a new sense of value adapted to the 21st century and reform society based on it.

Section 2 Attitude of Kyoto Citizens

We, citizens of Kyoto, starting with the Lake Biwa Canal project, have been pioneers in Japan's modernization by establishing the first primary schools in Japan and the first street cars with the so-called "Kyoto project". We are also proud of our multiple layered culture that preserves various aspects of life which are ignored in the process of modernization. Kyoto is one of the fortunate cities that escaped from total destruction in the last war. Feelings and thoughts that are not confined within the boundaries of modern values are still much alive on the streets of Kyoto. We have a strong desire to be the successors of this tradition.

Though it will not be easy to bring this desire in harmony with the other desire to create a new culture, our rich cultural heritage will help us to propose viable policies in our contemporary civilization. For this purpose, we hope to learn how to distinguish between what we have achieved and what we have lost in the process of rapid modernization since the Meiji era, and between what we have obtained and what we have thrown away on the way to democratization and high economic growth in the post war era.

Section 3 Special Qualities of Kyoto Citizens

We citizens of Kyoto have made efforts in founding basics for every resident to live with pride and free of fear as well as nurturing a city culture that demonstrates lifestyles which are alternatives to those that overvalue efficiency and competition and indulge in mass consumption.

Let us take a look back. Kyoto citizens have nurtured and refined highly independent civic culture through its over 1200-year history. We have preserved a tradition of autonomy by disciplining ourselves under our own rules. We have developed characteristic customs like daily communication with the neighbors cleaning streets. We have managed the city by keeping a balance between tradition and renovation. In Kyoto, both businesses and academia have been proud of being free and innovative and tried to spread their way of thinking among people in Kyoto. We have preserved idyllic villages blessed with beautiful natural surroundings as well as nurtured a culture of artisans who have produced products of high value with proud mastery. We have also pioneered in promoting fundamental human rights and welfare.

Kyoto is proud of its hospitality and religious tradition that still has the ability to heal. The charm permeates the streets, community events and other scenes of life, giving us comfort. Verdant nature looks down upon the city's activity and presents profound spiritual satisfaction to residents and visitors alike.

Kyoto's civic culture has been highly appreciated outside of the city too. Thanks to efforts by Kyoto citizens we have not only preserved the tradition but also pioneered the nation in various fields. Recently, however, engulfed under the surge of drastic socio-economic change, observable in the all-leveling high-growth economy and following over concentration in Tokyo, Kyoto is not bringing forth its pioneering potential, nor energizing itself effectively. There is a sense of crisis in the air. Kyoto might stop going forward, if it does not make use of its advantages.

The problems Kyoto faces today are that lagging industry and tourism, draining of factories and universities, sagging cultural creativity and influence, hollowing out of downtown and disappearance of historically rich streets. In order to address each of these and to preserve the charm and energy of Kyoto, we Kyoto citizens need to re-examine our ways of feeling and thinking which we have acquired over a long time. We need to identify with our special qualities and forge them into the foundation of our lifestyle in the 21st century.

Section4 Tomorrow's Lifestyle of Kyoto Citizens

Society should be built on various forms of trust. Our trust in social systems and institutions are the basis of our daily lives. Trust in schools and trust between family members, trust between community members, trust between citizens and administrators, trust in manufacturing and commercial activities and trust in bountiful nature which is indispensable to a healthy life. Society could never work without trust.

The kinds of trust that we have long taken for granted are now destabilizing. Let us focus on Kyoto. Trust in Kyoto's tradition of producing artifacts with sophisticated techniques and meticulous quality, trading with restraint and mutuality, affectionate hospitality, symbolized in the words "made in Kyoto" or "Kyotoesque," has been suffering significantly. Mutual trust in small communities and school districts is not as stable as it used to be. Will Kyoto sustain the trust it has enjoyed both in and outside of the city in the 21st century? Today, Kyoto stands at a crossroad.

We Kyoto citizens draw a picture of the city and the lifestyles as they should be tomorrow, and aim to build society on the basis of trust. In renewing the city, we want to make the most of tradition in our lifestyles, production and autonomy, which have carefully been developed by Kyoto citizens. Our special qualities described here must be developed to their fullest potential and well organized. We will further build society on the basis of trust in every dimension of civic life. We Kyoto citizens will be pioneers in finding and realizing new ideals of civic life in the 21st century by participating in the process with full individual responsibility.

Chapter2 Civic Life and its Influences on the Development of the City

In Kyoto, people enjoy various cultures in their everyday life. Moreover, they have lots of opportunities to meet those who visit Kyoto for various purposes such as work, study and refresh. By meeting various people, the citizens of Kyoto wish to live in a city environment with pride and love. We hope to develop the city as an ideal place to live where the citizens are able to live peacefully and share the benefit of prosperity. Here are the basic policies for the city development. When we succeed in realizing the policies, we believe that the society based on mutual trust can be established.

1 Everyone must be active

The citizens of Kyoto respect the belief that the citizens should warrant the equal right and opportunity to take part in the society as independent individuals, regardless age, sex, physical condition and nationalities.

The citizens of Kyoto think it is important to pay the best regard to human rights. In Kyoto, a group of people in the lowest social class declared that everyone has basic human rights. This is the first case in Japan, and they established an association, named "Zenkoku Suiheisya." Moreover, "Kyoto Light House" was established by the ancestors of the city as a pilot case of social welfare work for education on challenged children.

We think an ideal society, where people can enjoy an active life, should respect various kinds of values, and should offer many opportunities for school and social education through the citizens' lifetime and promote equality in employment to all the members of the society. First, the society guarantees the elderly the chances of self-managing their everyday lives and a satisfying social life. At the same time, everyone should respect the elderly as treasures because they have stored a wealth of knowledge in their lifetime. Second, the society offers school children the opportunity to meet various adults in order for them to discover the wisdom of life. Children must learn not only from their teachers at school, but also from various kinds of ordinary people in their community. In society, the three parties: school, home and community, are linked tightly and provide school children with environment where they can grow up to be persons who are highly cultured. Thirdly, the society should be an open space where people from different communities and backgrounds can exchange different sense of values, respecting the differences of each other. And through this, the members of the society will be able to achieve a common understanding, and may attain satisfaction with their own lives. Lastly, the members of society will help each other when someone is in trouble, and are also able to share private problems with others. Everything starts from the point that citizens' mutual trust.

Society respects differences, far from any discrimination. Moreover, the society enhances exchange between various thoughts and lives, and it warrants the value of multiple cultures. The citizens try to make Kyoto the ideal society.

2 Co-operation: one for all and all for one

It is getting more important to connect people into a helping network. In the network, people support and are supported by others. Citizens of Kyoto will make the network reliable.

As the number of newborn babies decreases and those of elderly are on the rise, all members of society should properly take care of the elderly, the babies and physically challenged people, otherwise all people can not feel as if they are members of society. Thus, social systems, such as health care, medical care, welfare and industrial laws should be reformed toward an aging and gender-equal society.

It is very important that the system or laws which cover the problems of newborn babies or young children should be examined carefully.

Society should offer healthy circumstances for all the members of society both in mental and physical terms. Everyone should be able to use facilities for sports and recreation, services for health care, medical care and welfare. Moreover, a system for rehabilitation should always be available for persons who need it, and a network for mental care provides helps for the persons who need it. The system and network will be useful especially for challenged people and elderly.

The citizens of Kyoto think it is important to establish an ideal society, where all the members of the society are able to live in peace.

3 Peaceful life for everyone

The citizens of Kyoto pursue both safety and ecology in their everyday lives.

We plan to equip the city with facilities against natural disasters such as earthquakes, considering that the city has lots of wooden buildings and dead-end roads. We must develop efficient facilities for disasters, and citizens always have to be concerned about what they can do in case of disaster on an individual and systematic level.

We also plan to protect the city from the danger of traffic accidents and crime. Kyoto must be safe for the elderly, children and physically challenged people.

Moreover, the citizens pursue development in their society, by ecological economy. This means that we must be careful to keep a balance between production and consumption, and we should decrease the amount of by-products that are harmful to the environment as much as possible. Lastly, we should make efforts to minimize the number of private cars, and construct a reliable public transportation system using the latest technology. In this way, everyone can enjoy walking around the city.

The citizens of Kyoto try to make the city a reliable and peaceful place by keeping moderation in their lives.

Section 2 Prosperous City

1 Active life

It is well known that many types of industrial technology have been invented in Kyoto. The citizens of Kyoto try to make the best use of this advantage in order to make their modern industrial world prosper.

In order to bring more energy to the modern industrial world in Kyoto, first of all, it is necessary to construct an original industrial system which is fully adapted to the conditions of an information-oriented society, an ecological society and an aging society. Through the system, companies in Kyoto can set up reliable and efficient networks among themselves. There are a wide range of companies in the system, from ones which use traditional technology to ones which use the latest technology, from ones which belong to the agricultural industry to ones which belong to the sight seeing and service industries. All of them produce high quality, long life, and highly value-added commodities. In addition, companies deal with the latest information technology and unconventional business strategy, as well produce elegant designs.

As 'recycle' and 'multimedia' become key words in our society, we try to form new business opportunities in the fields of environment and welfare. Furthermore, we must equip the city with adequate facilities which provide education and scholarship at universities, and managing and developing systems in company's offices.

Lastly, it is important for us to promote local shopping facilities, and to make the city a lure for travelers.

As we boost society, business ventures will bloom and the unemployment rate will decrease. The more prosperous society becomes, the more young people will come to the city to study or work, and the more people from all over the world will come to the city. In this way the city becomes the stage where the people can show their abilities.

The citizens of Kyoto continue to develop the city to become one of the most prominent cities in the world.

2 Attractive city

The citizens of Kyoto have inherited a culture which originated in Kyoto and has grown and have been refined during the history. The citizens will develop the culture into a maturer one.

A mature civic culture is defined as following. First, the citizens respect humanitarianism as the most important value in the culture. Second, the culture is rich, having various contents from the physical level to the metaphysical level, from the natural level to the artistic level. Lastly, the culture is not vague, the citizens have a clear image about the culture. In order to develop Kyoto's culture, we need to promote opportunities for exchange of Kyoto's cultural resources not only with other Japanese cultures, but also with foreign cultures. Lots of cultural resources have been developed in Kyoto. Shrines, temples, picture scrolls, stage arts, festivals, verdant nature, streets saturated with history, highly creative universities and institutes. Both traditional and modern industries are firmly based on accumulation of the best technology of the time. Religions have always been the city's spiritual core. Handcrafts permeate every aspect of daily life. Tea ceremonies, flower arrangements, exquisite arts, and senses of value that are shared among citizens.

In order to attain a mature culture in Kyoto, we need people who have a positive attitude toward the city development. Bringing up and educating children are thought to be important, as well as lifelong learning. It will especially be our responsibility to understand the value of the talents which have been matured in Kyoto's culture for ages, and to refine them for the next generation. For instance, the citizens inherit the spirit of genuine criticism, craftsmanship, a mind for adventure, a will for creative studying, a warm heart towards guests and a moderate mental attitude.

Furthermore, for a mature culture, the citizens need a place where they can share the prosperity of the city and enjoy a comfortable life. A heart-to-heart exchange among citizens brings prosperity to and a reliable network within the city. When we develop the city, various cultural resources in Kyoto will work as a stimulation, not as a limitation. They are resources which bring the citizen a bright future.

We, the citizens of Kyoto, will develop the city to be an attractive, prosperous and beautiful one.

Section 3 Establishment of the Foundation of the City

We are obliged to establish a strong foundation for the city, which enables people to do various economic and cultural activities. We are also encouraged to form a city which is convenient and comfortable for its residents. The establishment of the foundation of the city is essential to civic life and the numerous activities which take place in Kyoto or start from Kyoto. For this purpose, a safe and comfortable transportation system should provide a smooth movement of people and goods, taking care to modulate the impact on the environment. In addition, we construct parks, green areas and river banks and facilities for education, cultural activities and sports. We provide housing, improve housing conditions, and supply water for living. We also aim to preserve the beauty of the streets, which are in harmony with the environment, and promote conservation of mountains and fields. We attempt to activate the information industry in order for citizens to share a variety of information resources and to send information to the world. We will create a

city which is well prepared for the latest communication systems like digital broadcasting.

Under consideration of regional characteristics and natural and historical conditions, we promote further city development based on the idea of “preservation, reformation and creation.” We strive to preserve natural and historical landscapes, such as the mountains, the natural features of Kyoto which have sustained a long history, the foot areas of the mountains which are dotted with cultural assets and historical sites, and spacious residential areas which are integrated with the landscape. We pursue the development of urban areas where a number of traditional houses called *machiya* have been conserved and have commercial functions. Business, ordinary life, education and amusement can be seen. In the southern part of the city, considered as a region with new urban functions, a creative city for the 21st century is encouraged to be developed. We intend to form an urban environment in view of the whole city, promoting city development where functions for everyday life are fulfilled.

In the process of city development, we aim at the utmost cooperation of neighboring communities regardless of their districts. We are determined to contribute to the further development of Kyoto, being aware of the position of Kyoto in the Kansai district, in Japan, and even in the world.

Chapter 3 Kyoto City Created by its Citizens

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The city and the city life described above can be realized only when citizens and city government do their respective jobs in co-operative terms and make efforts to solve problems one by one. Through the process of developing systems that allow citizens, including foreign nationals, to take part in city governance, a co-operative relationship will be established on the basis of mutual trust between citizens and the administration.

Section1 Active Participation by Citizens in City Governance

There is no need to say that the community problems are for the members of the community to point out, discuss and solve. As people find more time to spare for things other than work, they are more willing to play a role in problem solving in their communities. In modern society, with a complex and multi-faceted structure, citizens have very diverse expectations and demands on the city government, reflecting a wide range of values. People demand diverse systems on many levels as they participate. Development of the information age is creating wide-ranged and fine networks for citizens' social activities. Citizens are ready to take part in a variety of fields such as health, welfare, education, sports, disaster prevention and city planning. These are all urgent concerns for citizens. Systems and procedures that allow every citizen to take part in these things should be carefully planned and developed.

We citizens of Kyoto are willing to contemplate what kind of human networks and what kind of social systems we need as we participate in city governance and to play individual roles in our communities in the quest for better lifestyles.

The recent current of decentralization, power shifting to local public entities that are more approachable to citizens, means a pivotal change from the age of uniform policy making by the central government to the age of empowerment of local communities. As the city government increases its power and responsibility in this process, citizens can have their opinions more

directly reflected in city policies and exert their right fully by participating in governing the city. Low economic growth, low birth rate and rapid aging will require further fiscal streamlining and new forms of co-operation between citizens and the city government.

We citizens of Kyoto will participate in city governance in a responsible way on the basis of sufficiently disclosed information and play positive roles in discussions regarding the future of the city. The administration, on its part, will develop systems for citizens to participate in the city governance in a timely manner. Through this process, administrative services will be improved, management will become more efficient and a mutual trust between citizens and the administration will develop in order to overcome various difficulties.

Section 3 System of Participative City Governance

Principals of city governance are, of course, its citizens who elect the mayor and members of the municipal assembly. The mayor should offer policies which reflect the citizens' needs and enact them through his or her strong leadership. The municipal assembly represents the citizens, makes important decisions concerning the city and discusses whether the administration is properly doing its job according to the citizens' needs. The mayor and the municipal assembly, both held accountable to the citizens, faithfully play their respective roles in city governance in order to satisfy as many citizens as possible.

Recently, with citizens developing a willingness to govern themselves, efforts are being made on a variety of levels and in a variety of ways to carry out mutual aid systems in neighborhoods so that members of communities can solve common problems by themselves. Not only traditional self-governing structures but also new multi-faceted networks, which are organized through voluntary activities by citizens, are creating forms of civic actions.

Highly information-oriented society is offering more and more ways to make individual participation in city governance a reality. Businesses, universities, religious corporations and nonprofit organizations will play more important roles. These persons and associations are members of the city who perform functions too large for any individual citizen to shoulder. The administration should be ready to support these organizations in various aspects.

We hope that the citizens and the administration will stimulate each other in this fashion and operate the city in a positive and responsive manner. To achieve this end we need to expand Kyoto's tradition of freedom and self-governance that has developed an original self-governing structure. We also need to nurture burgeoning movements of participation in city governance into an equal partnership between the citizens and the city government.

In order to stimulate citizens' participation in city governance, we need systems in which both the citizens and the city government can cooperate as responsible individuals through all the phases of planning and deciding policies, of carrying out measures and evaluating results. In drafting policies, alternatives and necessary information should be disclosed fairly and swiftly. There should be ample opportunities and systems that allow citizens to state their opinions, object directly and propose alternatives. After policies are drafted and decided, giving the fullest respect to opinions, citizens have a role in the process of enacting individual measures based on these policies. The city government should supply citizens with sufficient information concerning the results of the measures so that citizens can properly evaluate them. Only through carrying out this process smoothly and surely, will the partnership between citizens and government be firmly built. To serve this end we must make the most of new media and all other means such as

workshops for reaching agreement. We also need to create means that allow citizens to participate in a flexible way according to needs of communities and interests of the various parties.

Section 3 Construction of a Strong Relationship of Trust between the Citizens and City Government

Citizens are living in various networks of a society. In order to manage these public systems in the best form and with fairness to the citizens, each of the citizens of Kyoto has right to participate in the municipal administration in a variety of opportunities in the daily life. Each person, while receiving sufficient municipal services, should also assume a certain responsibility and share certain burden.

If the city government expects responsible behavior on the part of the citizens, the city government needs to be always sympathetic to the citizen's viewpoint, collect, organize and assess citizens' opinions and proposals, and then build into a policy for execution. The administration should also have an attitude of constantly reviewing its own style and method. In addition, the administration should actively engage itself as a coordinator in the citizens' activities of building social networks or rules and regulations, and should seek flexible methods of supporting citizens' social activities from various angles in response to the citizens' requests. The functionally divided administration system needs to be modified to achieve the objective mentioned above. Further delegation of authority to ward level is also essential for the citizens to make decisions in the area closer to them with the regional uniqueness and to receive finely adjusted administrative services.

The citizens of Kyoto intend to make this city where such concept of participation is realized in the richest form. Through the consistent co-operative activities by both parties, a strong relationship of trust between the citizens and administration will be constructed.

In Closing

The citizens of Kyoto hereby presented our desirable future life and community as The Master Concept of Kyoto. City of Kyoto should conduct its administration for the citizens by implementing policies and projects for realizing this master concept in each area of its administration and steadily executing such policies and projects.

We are very happy to hear from you about "The Master Plan of Kyoto City." Your opinion will be of great help to the members of "The Committee of the Master Concept of Kyoto City."

Please mail, fax or e-mail your opinion to our address below.

Please include your address (district only), sex and age.

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