

# Creating the Future

We have just a little more than five years to go until 2020, the year we host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We are now devoting our full efforts to advancing preparations to make the Games a success. This includes a review of the venue plans, as well as measures for disaster preparedness and counterterrorism, and hospitality to visitors.

However, the 2020 Games are not our final goal, but a passage point to Tokyo's future. Using the Olympics and Paralympics as a springboard, my final goal is to make our city a place where all residents can feel glad that they were born in Tokyo, lived in Tokyo, and grew old in Tokyo.

When I, in my capacity as the governor of Tokyo, think about Tokyo's future, what comes to mind are the great feats of two people. One is Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann who, in the 19th century, transformed Paris, which was then a city unchanged from the Middle Ages, into its present day glory. The other is Shinpei Goto, who created the reconstruction plan for Tokyo following the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923. In any age, an imaginative plan with a firm vision for the future will build the foundations for a city's growth.

What we need now is to conceive a grand design that takes a hard look at Tokyo's future and to deliver bright hopes to the people of Tokyo and all over Japan.

"Creating the Future: The Long-Term Vision for Tokyo" outlines the metropolitan government's policy for the building of social systems that will allow a mature society to continue growing. It not only clarifies the tangible and intangible post-Games

legacies and the various efforts that will be taken for the success of the 2020 Games, but looks squarely at the various challenges facing Tokyo, such as the arrival of a graying and declining population and the threat of an earthquake directly striking the capital, and reveals how these issues can be solved by setting numerical targets and specifically showing how policies will be rolled out.

A concrete 10-year timetable for the realization of a society where people can hold dreams and hopes... this is the long-term vision for Tokyo.

A more dynamic economy to support prosperous living is indispensable for our residents to feel truly satisfied about their lives in Tokyo. To this end, in addition to priority policies such as improving employment and welfare to raise the quality of life, this long-term vision also focuses on efforts to boost Tokyo's economy such as promoting finances and industry, and the national strategic special zone.

Various social and economic activities that have impacts on the world and drive Japan are constantly taking place on the stage that is Tokyo. The principal actors here are each of you—the residents of Tokyo. I will continue to devote all my efforts to work together with you in "creating the future" and making Tokyo the world's best city as the perfect setting for that stage.

December 2014  
Yoichi Masuzoe  
Governor of Tokyo

