

The Role of the Minato Mirai 21 Area in the Revival of Yokohama City



Yokohama City

Background

During the period of high economic growth in Japan, Yokohama became a commuter town for Tokyo with the concentration of economic activity and population staying in the capital, and as such, suffered from the harmful effects of rapid population growth and chaotic housing development. Moreover, businesses moved to Tokyo because of the delay in post-war recovery, and the identity of Yokohama City as a business region was lost.

In addition, there was the situation where the city was divided into the Kannai/Isezaki-cho area, the city centre of Yokohama since the opening of the port, and the area around Yokohama station, which was a rapidly expanding downtown district as a railway junction and suburban area. To overcome this situation and aim to become a unique and independent city. Yokohama City announced its strategic "Six Major Projects" in 1965. As a core initiative in "Strengthening urban business," which was one of the projects, the Minato Mirai 21 area was developed by demolishing and relocating the wharf and shipyard to consolidate services and strengthen the city centre.



The Minato Mirai 21 Area (Night view)

Purpose of Project

(1) Strengthening the independence of Yokohama

Integrate the centre of the city which is divided into the Kannai/Isezaki-cho area and the Yokohama Station area, and include offices, cultural facilities, commercial facilities, etc., in the integrated area. This will create job opportunities and vitality for citizens and establish economic revitalization and infrastructure to strengthen Yokohama's independence.

(2) Quality-focused conversion of port function

Develop a park and green space at the seaside as a waterfront space where citizens can escape the hustle and bustle of the city. In addition, integrate the functionalities of international commerce

and port management.

(3) Development of businesses in the metropolitan area

With the desire for the balanced development of the Tokyo metropolitan area, we aim to accumulate and expand roles such as business, commerce and international exchange and benefit from receiving a large share of the services currently concentrated within Tokyo.

Outline of Project

Construction began in November 1983 and the total project area was 186 ha (87 ha for housing). The development progressed steadily, and with 76 ha developed as of August 2017, development progress is at approximately 87%.

(1) Infrastructure development

- Coastal Land Development Project (land reclamation project)

Total project area: approximately 73.9 ha

Construction period: December 1983 to August 2020

- Land Readjustment Project

Total project area: approximately 101.8 ha

Period: November 1983 to March 2011

- Port Development Project

Total project area: approximately 77.9 ha

Period: 1983 to present

(2) Urban area development

Facilitate improvement for the creation of bustling and vibrant urban spaces and an attractive city centre

- Number of companies moving into the Area: Approximately 1,760 (2016)

- Approximately 103,000 people employed (2016)

- Number of visitors

Approximately 81 million (2016)

Progress and Achievements

The Minato Mirai 21 area started as a strategic project to change the urban structure and create a new form of city that would continue to develop along with its history and memory, while integrating a variety of services and formulating a high-quality urban area.

In addition, as the city matures, area management efforts to develop and improve the city's functions are currently underway. The administration, the private sector and the citizens are working together to enhance the value of the area, including environmental and disaster mitigation measures.

The main features of these efforts are as follows:

(1) The diversity of services

A variety of services with various urban facilities such as international businesses, PACIFICO Yokohama, which is the venue used for APEC, TICAD and other MICE related events, commercial businesses, and arts and culture facilities.

(2) Convenient transport access

The main highway leading to the Shuto Expressway, the urban railways connecting Yokohama with Tokyo, access from the sea by maritime traffic, and the development of a pedestrian network connecting the area and beyond.

(3) Urban infrastructure and landscape formation

Improvement of ground strength for earthquakes or disasters, the development of a utility tunnel for urban disaster mitigation and landscape improvement, a local environmentally-friendly heating and cooling system, urban design (unification of

the skyline and colours, regulation of outdoor advertising), etc.

(4) History, culture and greenery

Green network formation which connects green areas around the waterfront, the waterfront historical sites such as the UNESCO-Award-winning Red Brick Warehouse, dockyard garden, and the Nippon Maru, etc.

(5) Urban management

Area management by Yokohama Minato Mirai 21 Area Management as outlined by the community development agreement.



Yokohama Osanbashi International Passenger Terminal and the Minato Mirai 21 Area

Effects of Project

As a result of the development of the Minato Mirai area, commercial and business services were integrated, and the area was evaluated as a prime business environment, and now has a large number of companies including Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.; Nissan Motor Company, Ltd.; Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd.; and Shiseido Company, Limited as well as foreign-affiliated companies Lenovo Japan Corporation and LG Electronics Japan, Inc.

The city tax revenues for FY2016 were approximately 14.5 billion yen, and the total

since FY1997 was approximately 256.2 billion yen. In addition, the economic ripple effect of the area's business activities on Yokohama City was estimated in 2016 as approximately 2,044.6 billion yen annually.

Outlook

In 2019, a new passenger terminal will be completed to enhance accessibility for passenger ships. Additionally, a new MICE facility will be built by 2020 and will contribute to enhancing the value of international tourism as a MICE City.

In addition to our efforts, we aim to continue to impress the world as the most environmentally-aware city of the future, and we will continue our efforts to make this area an environmental showcase by taking on the challenges of environmental technology and the integration of such technology with art.

Reference URL

The Minato Mirai 21 Promotion Division, Urban Development Bureau, Yokohama City

<http://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/toshi/mm21/gaiyo/>

Yokohama Minato Mirai 21 Area Management

<https://www.ymm21.jp/>

Contact

Department in charge:

International Relations Division, International Affairs Bureau

Tel: +81-45-671-3813

E-mail ki-renkei@city.yokohama.jp