

# Creating a City Nightscape with the Aim of the Being World's Best Night View

Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture



## Background

The city of Nagasaki, owing to its position in the centre of a harbour, its basin terrain, and the high density of its town area, has created a beautiful three-dimensional nightscape that has been rated as a “ten million dollar night view”. To further increase the appeal of this night view, the main tourist facilities have been illuminated since FY1993, the main roads were fitted with sodium vapour street lights, and viewpoints like parks were redeveloped.

From FY 2013, in an effort to improve the appeal of the Nagasaki night view even more and in the hope that it would lead to the revitalisation of the area’s dynamism, a study group concerning appropriate development of the Nagasaki night view was convened to consider measures that should be taken in the city and Nagasaki Prefecture. Their findings were published in a report in December 2014.

Issues and future initiatives were explored under the four headlines of “Quality of the Night View”, “Development of Viewing Points”, “Menu for Viewing Pleasure”, and “Public Relations and Visitor Attraction”. In particular, in regards to the quality of the night view, it was pointed out that there were serious issues such as the overall amount of light decreasing, due to the increase of vacant houses and unoccupied land, landmarks being hard to see, and the charm of a port city not being fully capitalised. These issues were considered in order to increase the appeal.

## Project Aims

The aim is to have the best city night view in the world by creating a nightscape that conveys a sense of Nagasaki’s history and culture, and hometown scenery that is loved by its citizens.

## Project Outline

In May of FY2017, the local government formulated the General Plan for the Improvement of the Night View of Nagasaki’s Harbour. It established three concepts on how to present the character of the city and seven fundamental items for consideration of how to improve the night view as part of its aim of making it the best nightscape in the world. This plan involved creating close range and middle distance night views that reflect the town’s character in points and lines that can be enjoyed while walking around. An additional emphasis was placed on improving long distance views to create an enchanting aspect of the town’s personality. In regard to creating close range and middle distance night views, ten areas where tourist facilities are concentrated were designated as important areas for night view improvements. Work was to be carried out on light installations at landmarks and axis lines. In regard to improving long distance views, work was to be done on light installations on sloped land to make the coastline more apparent.

● Three Concepts (from the General Plan for the Improvement of the Night View of Nagasaki's Harbour)

Shining lights streaming into the harbour:

The town area is in a basin that faces out towards the sea, and by climbing up a small hill, you can look out on the townscape connected to the harbour below. The geographical features mean that it Nagasaki is blessed with many good viewing spots where you can overlook distant scenery, with sloping hills creating wide open views, which is a substantial advantage for scenery. Making the most of the beauty of a terrain surrounded by the sea produces a breath-taking brilliance that makes creates an undeniable affinity for harbour towns throughout the world.

A town adorned in a broad-minded fashion:

The culture of Nagasaki is derived from an open-minded acceptance of a wide variety of ideas that were introduced first from Asia and the West, with Japanese culture (Wa in Chinese characters), Chinese culture (Ka) and Western culture (Ran) all being mixed together to form what is called a "Wakaran" culture that is unique. The charm that is felt by visitors and the history and culture of which the residents are proud work together naturally. Scenery that broad-mindedly mixes together a variety of adornments, is very fitting for Nagasaki.

"Lights that invite prayer"

The city of Nagasaki has accumulated a long history associated with prayer. This includes the secret practiced faith of early Christians in Japan, the zeal of townspeople who take part in the grand autumn festival, "Nagasaki Kunchi," the spirit of heroes who tried to change Japan, and the prayers for peace in remembrance of the atomic bomb. You can come across various sentiments of prayer that connect Nagasaki's past to its present. The illuminations in Nagasaki need lights that inadvertently make you

think about its history for a moment, and make you remember the feeling of prayer.

● Seven items for consideration for the lighting in Nagasaki

1. Comfortable shade: Create comfort through strategic lighting
2. Suitable colour temperature contrasts: Closely fitting in with the city's character
3. Glare filters: Create beautiful scenery that is easy on the eye.
4. Vertical plane brightness: Create an impression on the townscape
5. Consideration of colour: To show the rich appearance of the town.
6. Highly efficient lighting equipment: Light in an ecological, economical way
7. Operation: Convey the time and season

● Guidelines for improving the night scenery

(1) Improving the long distance night view

- Work on light installations for the town areas on sloping ground  
Work on the road lighting and lights for crime prevention on the sloped town areas which have become a major component of the Nagasaki night view.
- Make the coastline more apparent  
Light up landmarks like bridges and the trees and plants of the coastline, and create beautiful background reflections.

(2) Creating close range and middle distance night views

- Establishment of seven principles for lighting  
For each area, establish principles for direction of flow for the whole area
- Work on light installations for landmarks to create points  
Promote the outfitting of lighting equipment that effectively lights up the structures
- Work on light installations to create lines  
Establish major axis lines that connect areas, and

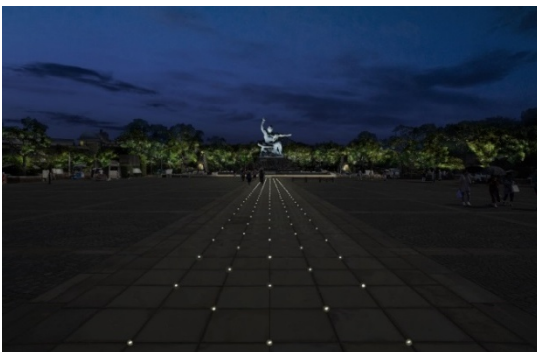
establish axis lines that connect landmarks and tourist facilities within those areas, and promote the outfitting of lighting equipment to illuminate them.



Night scenery of Dejima after light installation  
(©Lighting Planners Associates)



Peace Park (before light installation)



Peace Park (after light installation)

## Strengths and Innovations

- A general plan for the night scenery was formulated, and work was carried out for the whole area for close range, middle distance and long distance points of view.
- Close range and middle distance night views that

reflect the town's character in "points and lines" were created to be enjoyed while on the move

- Long distance views were improved to show the town's enchanting character

## Results of the Project

Number of tourists visiting Nagasaki 2003:  
approximately 5,040,000

2017: approximately 7,080,000

Number of ropeway users (nightscape viewpoint)

FY2003: approximately 60,000

FY2017: approximately 200,000

## Problems, and Responses

As there was no precedent within Japan for work on an entire area's night scenery, a wide range of opinions were solicited, which included commissioning the cooperation of an accomplished lighting design company, as well as interacting with citizens and businessmen while holding city walking workshops and symposiums.

## Future Developments

With upcoming events like the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bomb, the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, and the opening of the West Kyushu Route of the Kyushu Shinkansen, the next few years will be crucial for Nagasaki. To maximise the effects for the expected projects and events, maintenance work will be carried out in each area. In addition, in places where work is planned, it will include facilities owned by the national government, the prefecture, and private businesses, and it is hoped to proceed in coordination with those entities.

## Reference URL

<https://www.at-nagasaki.jp/yakei/>

(Nagasaki's night view)

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