TOYAMA: Creating a Compact City

Mayor Masashi Mori
Toyama City

- Total Area: 1,241.85 Km²
- Number of Households: 159,151 (2010)
- Geography: Elevation gain from Toyama Bay to Suisho-dake (Crystal Mountain) 0 - 2,986 meters above sea level; 70% of area forested
Challenges facing cities: decreasing populations, rapidly aging societies, severe financial stresses, increasing administrative costs, increasing infrastructure maintenance costs, environmental degradation, and increasing CO2 emissions.

**Toyama’s Vision for the Compact City of the Future**

1. Establish a compact city based on efficient public transportation
   - Revitalize public transportation
   - Concentrate city functions in the center of the city and along the public transportation lines

2. Increase the quality and range of civic life amenities
   - Reduce automobile dependency
   - Create more opportunity for the elderly to go out

3. Take full advantage of the city’s strengths
   - Nurture local industry - such as the pharmaceutical industry
   - Increase the use of renewable energy
   - Attract new businesses & create new industries
Developing an LRT network is a key to modifying the current automobile dependency and creating a town with every city amenity within walking distance.
Connecting the Bullet Train with North and South Tram Lines

2013 Begin development of the south side of the mid town Japan Railways train station. The new Shinkansen (bullet train) station is elevated to facilitate the construction of tram lines underneath the station.

2015 Begin operation of the new Shinkansen line (March 14, 2015). New tram stop under station at the south exit is put into operation.

2018 Begin operation of the north side tram line under the elevated JR station. North and south tram lines now fully connected to the Shinkansen line.

Artist’s Rendering of the South Exit of the New Toyama JR Station
Improving the Quality of Life for the Elderly

Toyama is establishing downtown pedestrian friendly areas where preventative care facilities are networked with city services so the elderly can live safely and comfortably, and can more easily get outside the home and meet with others.

3-year project collaboration with the University of Toyama

With citizen input, the city worked with the University and business to develop a walking aid/shopping cart placed in downtown areas for easy access.

- University
- Municipality
- Citizens
- Industries

The University helps in designing the walking aid

The city sets up the downtown walker station starting in October 2014

The producing company markets the walking aid for national distribution.

A prototype walking aid/shopping cart
A new agricultural industry is being developed inland in the rural foothills of the Northern Japan Alps where the population is both decreasing and aging. Here perilla, known as “shiso” in Japanese, is grown in hot houses using the heat from geothermal areas.

**Perilla:** a medicinal plant of the mint family known as “ju-nen” or “ten years” because it is believed to add ten years to your life.

**Benefits**
- Energy efficient heating
- Maintaining rural life through a new local industry
- Employing local senior citizens
- Enhancing a healthy and long life in the city by providing perilla to hospitals and for school lunches
- Utilizing abandoned arable areas
Promoting Local Industries #2: Waste to Energy (WtE) for Agriculture

- Local waste
- Incinerator/power generator 144 tons a day
- Heat energy transported efficiently by trans-heat container
- Electricity
- Power and Heat
- Greenhouses

Waste energy is used for electricity and heating, reducing costs.

High quality, competitive products are produced.
We are developing a self-supporting farming village model which utilizes small scale hydroelectric installations along agricultural water canals. The electricity which is generated will power agricultural EVs, and the surplus power sold for income.

March 2014: Mayor Mori signing a micro hydroelectric project agreement with the Tabanan region of Bali.
International Recognition

**2012** OECD recognizes Toyama as one of five cities, (along with Melbourne, Vancouver, Paris and Portland) with advanced “Compact City” policies.

**September 2014** Toyama is the only Japanese city selected for the UN initiative, **SE4All** (Sustainable Energy for All). Other cities include Iskandar (Malaysia), Copenhagen, Vancouver, Paris, Milano, Manila, & Warsaw.

SE4All UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon initiative for 2030:
1. universal energy access
2. double the rate of energy efficiency
3. double the share of renewable energy

**December 2014** Toyama is the only Japanese city chosen for the **Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities** initiative. Other cities chosen in 2014 include Chicago, Montreal, Paris, London, Lisbon, Barcelona, Sidney and Singapore.
In December 2014 the Rockefeller Foundation of New York chose Toyama as one of the world’s 100 Resilient Cities which have a remarkable capacity to withstand and recover from the shocks and stresses facing modern cities.

**Rockefeller Foundation Recognition for Resilience**

- **Shocks and Stresses Facing Toyama**
  - Floods and landslides
  - Population loss and aging population
  - Aging infrastructure

- **Measures to Meet These Challenges**
  - Risk mitigation for natural disasters
  - Revitalization of public transportation
  - Revitalizing the City Center
  - Replenishing social capital
  - Enhancing medical and preventive care

**Achieving a sustainable and resilient city through ecological compact city policies**

Senior Policy Advisor Dr. Runzo-Inada (right) with Rockefeller 100 CEO Berkowitz (left) and Rockefeller Foundation President Rodin at the Resilience City Summit in Singapore.
The Multiplier Values of Toyama’s Compact City Strategy

Creation of Environmental Values
- Reducing CO² emissions
- Waste management
- Waste to energy (WtE) systems

Creation of Economic Values
- Reducing administrative costs
- Revitalizing rural communities
- Revitalizing the City Center
- Promoting local industry
- Creating new industries
- Creating employment opportunities

Creation of Social Values
- Enhancing local community
- Nurturing social capital
- Supporting regional medicine
- Developing nursing care for seniors
- Ensuring public safety
- Increasing social welfare

Creating a sustainable society with a harmonious balance between economic and social values and the environment.