

April 14, 2023

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Meiji Jingu (Religious Corporation)
Japan Sports Council
ITOCHU Corporation

The Significance of Advancing the Jingu Gaien District Redevelopment Project (hereafter referred to as the “Project”)

On April 6, 2023, we were pointed out in writing by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG), saying that the Project has not won enough understanding and empathy from citizens of Tokyo, regarding the significance of and principle in moving forward with the Project. We take the request of the TMG with the utmost seriousness, fully recognizing its importance.

Therefore, we will provide the public with information on the significance and necessity of moving forward with the Project as described below, and tackle the task of proactively disseminating information in hopes of fostering understanding about the Project among not only citizens of Tokyo but also the general public.

<Significance and Necessity of Advancing the Project>

1. Significance and Necessity of Advancing Urban Redevelopment in the Jingu Gaien District

Issues related to the current state of the Project site have been previously described in detail in the “Guidelines for the Urban Redevelopment of the Jingu Gaien District in the post-Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Era” (November 2018) and “Jingu Gaien District Park & Urban Redevelopment Project Proposal.”

In particular, we recognize the following as major issues which need to be addressed and resolved with the Project:

- (1) Aging of existing large-scale sports facilities
- (2) Lack of open spaces such as plazas
- (3) Lack of walkability within the district
- (4) Lack of pedestrian spaces during events

To cope with the challenges of public nature that the district faces, and to meet the need of renewing in the near future the functions of the sports facilities and head office buildings—due to the aging—held by land owners, we have jointly moved forward with the planning of the urban redevelopment.

Among such challenges the district faces, Meiji Jingu Gaien (Meiji Shrine Outer Gardens) stands out as a place that is loved not only by citizens of Tokyo but also many people in Japan over its long history. We would like to take this opportunity to re-explain the background leading to our urban redevelopment initiative.

Meiji Jingu Naien (Inner Gardens) and Gaien (Outer Gardens) had been under the management of the national government from the time when the Gardens were originally founded to the end of the war. After the war, the Meiji Jingu religious corporation came to manage all the facilities and green spaces. While the character of the district as the Outer Gardens open to the public has remained unchanged since its establishment, Gaien has constantly evolved with the times, as a place for people to enjoy various sports and culture, and its greenery.

There are also Jingu Gaien’s iconic “four rows of ginkgo trees”; the Jingu Baseball Stadium, a

mecca of Japanese baseball with a history spanning nearly 100 years; and Prince Chichibu Memorial Rugby Stadium, which holds similar status among rugby players and fans. These important assets must be protected, too. While pursuing renovation, relocation and cluster-like integration of the facilities through the Project, we will also give consideration to preserving and improving the rich greenery, undertaking redevelopment in a way that will minimize impact on the continued hosting of sports events, and securing functionality as a cluster of safe and secure sports facilities in synch with the times.

The greenery in the Outer Gardens, which are open to the public, has grown and matured together with the comings and goings of many visitors. Unlike the pristine woods in the Inner Gardens where nature pursues its own renewal on the land virtually untouched by human hands, the look of the Outer Gardens has evolved and has been updated with the times. The Project presents an opportunity to renew and improve the “greens” of the Outer Gardens district from the perspectives of maintaining safety and preservation of the environment as a place where everyone can enjoy even more greenery.

In order to preserve Meiji Jingu, including the Inner and Outer Gardens, for the benefit of future generations, we will protect what should be protected and undertake necessary renovation and improvements. We believe that this redevelopment initiative is important to making the Outer Gardens more accessible and open to everyone for the next 100 years.

Based on the recognition of what is stated above, the significance of moving forward with the Project plan can be summarized in the following three points:

- (1) The creation of a **world-class sports cluster** where sports can be widely enjoyed. This will be achieved by renovating, in sequence, the aging sports facilities, which are leading venues for athletics in Japan, and by implementing this renewal in due consideration of continued hosting of sports events.
- (2) Paving the way for the next 100 years, while preserving historical scenery such as the “four rows of ginkgo trees,” we will **increase greenery and open spaces** -- the charm of the Gaien district --, **strengthen the pedestrian network**, and **provide the diversity of visitors with safe and enjoyable “walkability” in the district, including during events**. We will achieve this through the re-development of the district as a new multiple-use neighborhood that will be representative of Tokyo.
- (3) Improving its **disaster resilience and response** as a **wide-area evacuation site**, by utilizing its urban functions and open spaces such as plazas, in cooperation with large-scale sports facilities.

2. “Greenery” and Initiative to Encourage Citizens to Participate

We have already announced that in the project: the iconic “four rows of ginkgo trees” will be preserved; the greenery ratio will be raised from about 25% to about 30%, and the number of trees will be increased from 1,904 to 1,998. In our press release dated February 17, 2023, which announced the TMG’s approval of the implementation of the “Jingu Gaien District Type-1 Urban Redevelopment Project,” we described our plans to include the development of new wooded areas and walking routes through the green of the trees.

In undertaking the development of new greenery, we plan to encourage the proactive participation of the citizens of Tokyo, thus jointly creating new greenery for the next 100 years.

In the future, in cooperation with the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry, we also plan to solicit new donations of trees from the citizens of Tokyo. In addition, tree planting and new greenery cultivation will be augmented by planting select seedlings of trees from the inner and Outer Gardens of Meiji Jingu and through other activities. Taking to heart the thoughts and efforts of our predecessors who invited donations of native tree species, we will launch our initiative for the next 100 years in autumn of 2023. As soon as the details are finalized, we will announce our plans on the Project website

and through other outlets.

<Dissemination of Information on the “Jingu Gaien District Redevelopment”>

The Project has met with misunderstanding and incorrect speculations by some who have claimed, for example, that the redevelopment will “cut down the four rows of ginkgo trees” or “decrease greenery in the Jingu Gaien District.” In response to these, we have revised the structure, content and design of the official Project website in Japanese.* Incorporating anew a video on the Project concept, the website has been revised and redesigned to make the content easier to look at and help people understand them better.

In the future, we will continue to expand and enrich the content of the Project website, and to win the understanding and heartfelt support of not only citizens of Tokyo, but also the general public. In addition, with the aim of raising public awareness of the Project website, we plan to use a variety of communication tools to proactively disseminate information, starting on April 17th.

* Jingu Gaien District Redevelopment Project Website

URL: <https://www.jingugaienmachidukuri.jp/en>

(We are going to renew English site by June)

For inquiries, please contact: Information Desk, Jingu Gaien District Redevelopment Project Planning Office (Japanese Only) Tel : 81(0)3-6695-0539
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