

Details on UN Working Group Report

Tokyo, Japan, May 29, 2024 – A United Nations Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises released its report on May 27, 2024 in which it stated that, “the Working Group expresses serious apprehension in particular over reports of inadequate public consultation in environmental impact assessment processes, especially for large-scale development schemes. One case raised by stakeholders is the Jingu Gaien District Urban Redevelopment Project, which could result in adverse human rights impacts.” On the following day (May 28, 2024), the government of Japan released its comments on the report, and urged the deletion of the associated paragraph in its entirety.

In carrying out the Jingu Gaien District Urban Redevelopment Project (the “Project”), the developers have been properly following procedures in accordance with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government’s Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance, and have furthermore participated in a total of 12 meetings of the Environmental Impact Assessment Council and similar forums, conducting briefings and Q&A sessions in public, including face-to-face and online formats, which exceeds the usual number of such meetings and includes meetings held subsequent to submission of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. In addition, the developers have held a total of nine briefing sessions as required for urban planning procedures stipulated under ordinances and other rules, along with discretionary briefing sessions. The developers have also held individual briefings for local community associations, schools and other such entities upon request.

Since July 2023, a question submission page on the project website has been available to everyone with no limitations on the subject matter. A total of 410 question submissions have been received as of May 29, 2024. The project developers have furnished replies to the questions and posted them to the project website.

As of the present, as developers, we have responded to various media, provided information on the project website, responded to questions and disclosed information, and held information sessions for local residents to properly convey the project plan and have focused on ensuring it is understood. At the same time, the methods for providing information have been various, and we understand that misunderstandings may have arisen as a result of inadequate communication of details. It is important that such communication be ongoing and we will continue to work to actively provide information in seeking to ensure that people gain a better understanding of the Project.

In response to the Heritage Alert issued by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on September 7, 2023, and referred to in the United Nations Working Group’s report, the developers publicly disclosed their opinion on the project website on September 29, 2023, as follows:

Developers’ Position on the Heritage Alert

https://www.jingugaienmachidukuri.jp/pdf/en-jingugaienmachidukuri_news_2023092901.pdf

* May 30, 2024 postscript: We have added in red that the developers’ opinion in response to the Heritage Alert has already been disclosed on the project website.

Reference

(1) Briefings held thus far at the Council and other such forums regarding the environmental impact assessment process

Date	Event	Format
August 2021	1st Environmental Impact Assessment Council regarding the draft of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report: Attendance, Q&A	Online (open to the public)
February 2022	2nd Environmental Impact Assessment Council regarding the draft of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report: Attendance, Q&A	Online (open to the public)
March 2022	3rd Environmental Impact Assessment Council regarding the draft of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report: Attendance, Q&A	Online (open to the public)
April 2022	4th Environmental Impact Assessment Council regarding the draft of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report: Attendance, Q&A	Online (open to the public)
May 2022	5th Environmental Impact Assessment Council regarding the draft of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report: Attendance, Q&A	Online (open to the public)
May 2022	6th Environmental Impact Assessment Council regarding the draft of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report: Attendance, Q&A	Online (open to the public)
August 2022	7th Environmental Impact Assessment Council regarding the draft of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report: Attendance, Q&A	Tokyo Metropolitan Government and online (available online)
December 2022	Developers briefing at the Council on the draft of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report	Tokyo Metropolitan Government and online (available online)
January 2023	Developers briefing at General Meeting of Environmental Impact Assessment Council on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Follow-up Survey Plan	Tokyo Metropolitan Government and online (available online)
April 2023	Briefing at General Meeting of Environmental Impact Assessment Council regarding developer rebuttal to remarks of ICOMOS Japan (1st session)	Tokyo Metropolitan Government and online (available online)
May 2023	Briefing at General Meeting of Environmental Impact Assessment Council regarding developer rebuttal to remarks of ICOMOS Japan (2nd session)	Tokyo Metropolitan Government and online (available online)
July 2023	Developers briefing at General Meeting of Environmental Impact Assessment Council held subsequent to submission of the Follow-up Survey Report (part 1)	Tokyo Metropolitan Government and online (available online)

(2) Briefings and other such forums held in relation to the urban planning process, etc.

Date	Event	Number of briefings
January 2020	Briefing on the Jingu Gaien District Urban Redevelopment Project based on the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's Park-centered Urban Development System Implementation Guidelines	2
June 2021	Briefing on the Jingu Gaien District Urban Redevelopment Project overview	2
August 2021	Briefing on the draft of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report	2

(3) Discretionary developer briefing for local residents

Date	Event	Number of briefings
July 2023	Discretionary briefing to enhance understanding regarding details of the Project	3