

**The Changing Face of Tokyo**  
**From Edo to Today, and into the Future**



## On the publication of The Changing Face of Tokyo: From Edo to Today, and into the Future

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The first year of the new Reiwa era, 2019, marks the centennial of the enactment of the City Planning Act and the Building Standards Act. In this milestone year, we compiled *The Changing Face of Tokyo: From Edo to Today, and into the Future* to look back at the history of urban development in Tokyo from its beginnings in the Edo period so that this legacy can be carried on into the future.

Today's Tokyo has been built on the foundation of Edo, an early modern city that began developing when Tokugawa Ieyasu established the shogunate there. Edo became the center of politics and culture, and with the development of canals and roads, water transport came to support people's livelihoods, and Edo thrived as a "city of water." Famed historical sites dating back to the Edo period, such as the Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens and Sensoji Temple, are treasured today as quintessential Tokyo attractions.

Entering the Meiji era, new technologies and aspects of Western civilization were aggressively introduced and absorbed to develop the city into one befitting the capital of a modern state. In order to address issues that arose as a result of the rapidly growing population and urban sprawl, a modern city planning system was established. Not long after this, Tokyo was devastated by the Great Kanto Earthquake, but under the strong leadership of Shinpei Goto and the project for reconstruction of the Imperial capital, key roads, bridges, and other infrastructure were newly built. Even now, these continue to function as the structures supporting the city.

In the years following the end of World War II, against the backdrop of recovery efforts by the people and Japan's economic growth, Tokyo transformed into a modern city through the advancement of projects making intensive use of land in central Tokyo, and, with the Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games on the horizon, the introduction of new infrastructure such as the Tokaido Shinkansen bullet train and the Tokyo Metropolitan Expressway. Moreover, with the progression of globalization and intensifying competition between the cities of the world in recent years, Tokyo is working vigorously to enhance its appeal through urban renewal and other developments.

In order for Tokyo to evolve even more using the soon-to-be-held Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 as a springboard, it will be indispensable to make the most of the historical and cultural assets and infrastructure we have inherited, and heighten their value.

There is no end to urban development. In order to carve a future brimming with hope for each and every resident of Tokyo, we will take a macro perspective to ensure the sustainable growth of Tokyo as a highly mature megalopolis that is the world's most sought-after city, and to hand this legacy down to following generations.

I hope that this booklet will serve to deepen your understanding of Tokyo's urban development and heighten your expectations toward Tokyo in the future.

June 2019

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Governor of Tokyo

小池百合子

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