

# Policies on Okinawa

Director General for Policy Planning, Okinawa Development and Promotion Bureau, Okinawa General Bureau

## Basic Structure of Okinawa-promotion

More than 40 years have passed since Okinawa was returned to Japan on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1972. During this period the government has set forth Okinawa Promotion Plans and invested a total of approximately 10 trillion yen, and those plans worked to reduce the gap with the mainland, especially in the area of social infrastructure. Thanks to the efforts of the prefecture and municipal governments, as well as its people, Okinawa has steadily developed.

However, as clearly seen from a prefectural income level only 70 percent of the national average and from the high unemployment rate, socioeconomic conditions in Okinawa are difficult. Along with the reduction of U.S. military bases and facilities, those socioeconomic conditions are important political issues for the Cabinet to address.

Under the strong leadership of the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs, the Cabinet Office is comprehensively promoting measures for Okinawa, including ongoing deliberations in the Okinawa Policy Council (founded September 1996) and development and promotion policies involving the entire government.

### • Okinawa-promotion Budget

Among the efforts undertaken according to the Okinawa Promotion Plan, the Cabinet Office concerns itself primarily with public works. To grasp such works as a whole, to coordinate its completion, and to ensure its progress in accordance with the plan, the Cabinet Office calculates the overall costs for such work and transfers the funds to the various ministries and agencies concerned. This enables the Cabinet Office to efficiently and comprehensively coordinate the plan's implementation.

## Measures for Okinawa-promotion

### • Promotions of Industries

Based on the plan, the Cabinet Office is undertaking various measures with other relevant ministries, the prefecture, and other local governments for the prefecture's development. Those measures include the further promotion of industries such as tourism, information technology and manufacturing. At the same time, human resources and science and technology to support those industries are being developed.



Okinawa Chura Umi Aquarium  
(OCVB)



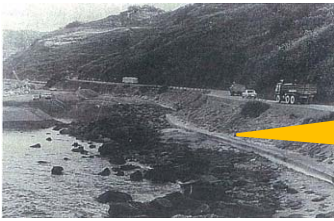
The Okinawa IT Shinryo Park  
(OITSP)



Naha Airport,  
International Logistics Hub

## · Improving Social Infrastructure

Even though the Cabinet Office is improving social infrastructure with other relevant ministries for the prefecture's development, conditions of social structure in Okinawa remain to be insufficient.



Japan National Route 58

Naha Airport

## · Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST)

OIST PhD Program commenced in September 2012. The objective of OIST is to contribute to the self-sustaining development of Okinawa and the academic advancement of worldwide science and technology. OIST, located in Onna Village, is aiming for "the best in the world" graduate university in the interdisciplinary field of cutting-edge natural science.

### ~Expected Effects for Okinawa Promotion~

OIST: Education and research of the best in the world in Okinawa



Onna Campus

Development into international center for science and technology

Creation of Intellectual and Industrial Cluster

Human resource development in science and technology and international community development

## · Facilitating Utilization of the Former U.S. Bases

To facilitate utilizing the areas, which the U.S. armed forces use now and which will be returned to Japan in the near future, the Cabinet Office holds the council, and talks with the relevant ministries and the local governments. In addition, the Cabinet Office supports the local governments by sending land-use experts and taking a wide variety of measures.



Utilization of the former U.S. military base, Makiminato Housing

For details (in Japanese only) → <http://www8.cao.go.jp/okinawa/>