04

Smart Wellness City Sapporo

—— Sapporo City, Hokkaido, Japan
2013-

Building a walkable city utilizing underground spaces and information and communication technology (ICT)

Key Issue

The city of Sapporo had problems with soaring medical expenses due to aging population as well as environmental impact of its dependency on automobile transport. Meanwhile, in terms of industry, the city has seen the growth of information and communication technology (ICT) businesses. The project envisioned using this strength to foster these businesses and resolve urban issues.

Project Approach

Development of underground spaces and encouragement of walking and the use of public transport with the help of ICT

Underground spaces were developed to improve the accessibility of the CBD area and to ensure safe and comfortable walking spaces throughout the year.
In recent years, the project also conducted a demonstration test that raises people's health awareness and encourages them to use public transport, by offering points that may be used as fares for public transport according to the step counts measured with smartphone app and other methods.

Acceleration of innovation with the use of data

The city of Sapporo has seen progress in the development of ICT business ventures, aided by the presence of Hokkaido University and industrial strategies implemented by local governments. To accelerate the innovation of ICT businesses, the Sapporo City Government is building a data platform that facilitates data utilization by accumulating and making data accessible. Initiatives are already underway to make active use of data to resolve a wide range of urban issues. For instance, understanding dynamics of inbound tourists based on an analysis of their movements and tracking purchase data helps to create strategies for product lineups and promotions, while push distribution of recommended tourist spots to tourism app users helps to attract tourists to suburban facilities.
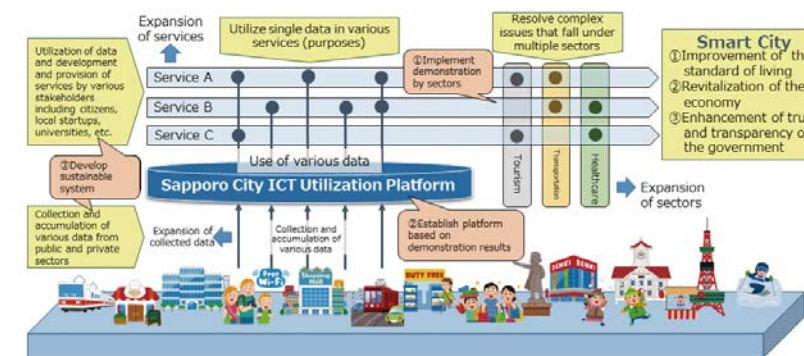

The underground space is enhanced by interactive spaces where many different events take place. It is not only a space for walking but also a space for enjoyment. Measures utilizing ICT are also being implemented.

The underground space links the bisected CBD and is being developed into a new urban space.

The city of Sapporo has seen progress in the construction of ICT platforms for the active use of various open data and big data from the public and private sectors. This creates an environment that allows different stakeholders to engage in service provision and in the transformation to open data. In parallel with the platform construction, demonstration projects aimed at resolving urban issues are underway.
Source: Sapporo City

Data

Size: Sapporo Ekimae-Dori Underground Walkway: Approx. 520 m
Aurora Town: Approx. 310 m, Pole Town: Approx. 400 m
Project implementing bodies: Sapporo City Government and other entities
Population: Approx. 1.97 million in the city of Sapporo (as of July 1, 2019)

To the Next Phase

Consideration is underway to use smart planning to make Sapporo a more walkable city. Pedestrian data from walking promotion campaigns is combined and analysed with other openly-available data sets, results based on which planning and operation of urban facilities and transportation will be made.

EFFICIENT   GREEN   INCLUSIVE   INNOVATIVE & CREATIVE   RESILIENT   SYNERGISTIC & DESIGNED