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Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City

Kashiwa City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan
2005-

Collaboration among the public, private and academic sectors leads the sustainable development of suburban transit-oriented development (TOD) along new railway line

Key Issue

The construction of the Tsukuba Express (TX) railway line and development along the line were implemented in an integrated manner. This is a strength in Japan' s urban development, which is used to enhance the transport network in the National Capital Region, to efficiently acquire land for railway construction, to supply high quality housing in large quantities, and to prevent the disorderly development of the area around railway stations. Each area around a station faced the challenge of achieving high quality use of land and sustainable development along the railway line. Taking advantage of having universities with cutting-edge research facilities and a large number of private businesses located there, the Kashiwa-no-ha district is working to construct a new community based on collaboration among the public, private and academic sectors.

Project Approach

Forming a platform for collaboration among the public, private and academic sectors

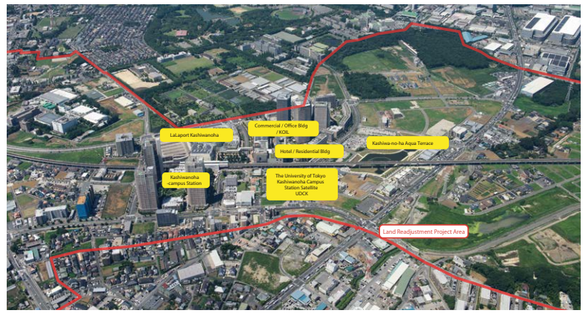
The Kashiwa-no-ha International Campus Town Initiative was established for the purpose of sharing the future vision of the town among the public, private and academic sectors. In line with this, individual players carry out their own projects, perform follow-up reviews each year and make adjustments if needed. The Urban Design Center Kashiwa-no-ha (UDCK) was established as an implementation body for collaboration among a wider variety of players. Its activities include follow-up reviews of the initiative and other support for project implementation, the design of public spaces around the station and regulating reservoirs and area management to improve quality, and the planning and organization of events for the local residents.

Community development conceptualized as models to solve future social issues

The Kashiwa-no-ha International Campus Town Initiative proposes three key concepts that will lead to the resolution of future social challenges such as low carbon society and unprecedented aging population. They are an "Environmental-Symbiotic City" , "a City of Health and Longevity" and "a City of New Industry Creation" . Accordingly, investment in a number of pioneering models has been made, which includes the introduction of a district level energy management system. In conjunction with opportunities for co-learning with residents and other interaction events, new community/lifestyles are proposed.

Tsukuba Express Town locations

Tsukuba Express (TX) is a rail link between Akihabara in Tokyo and Tsukuba Science City. It has a length of 58 km and 20 stations.
Of the 3,300 ha of land subject to urban development along the TX line covering 20 districts, Urban Renaissance Agency developed seven districts over the area of 1,600 ha.



Kashiwa-no-ha Campus station area (2017)
While maintaining harmony with the environment, the project will shift its focus to the development of the surrounding areas.
Source: Urban Design Center Kashiwa-no-ha

To the Next Phase

With the aim to create a smart compact city around a railway station, the private and public sectors will collaborate to create a data platform to introduce automatic self-driving buses incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies, as well as space design based on the analysis of human flows.

Data

Area: Approx. 400 ha (for the central area)
Project implementing bodies: Chiba Prefectural Government, Kashiwa City Government, Chiba University, the University of Tokyo, Urban Renaissance Agency, and Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd.
(These are the members of the Kashiwa-no-ha Campus Town Initiative Committee.)
Planned population: Below 40,000
Main facilities introduced: A large shopping center (LaLaport Kashiwanoha), commercial and office buildings, hotel and residential buildings, AEMS*4 , and a business venture support facility (Kashiwa-no-ha Open Innovation Lab (KOIL))