

## 45. Post Pacific War administrative transition

### 45.1 The road to city status

In April, 1947 (Showa 22), Japan's first nationwide general election was called. Fussa Town's population at that time swelled due to Tama Airfield's (Yokota Air Base) expansion, bringing various problems to Fussa. The mayoral election was closely contested with KISHI Tokujiro becoming the first public elected town mayor.

Under the Minor Municipalities Consolidation Law enacted 1953 (Showa 28), an entity of more than 30 thousand population could be reorganized to gain city status. On the Local Autonomy Law prescribed a population exceeding 50 thousand. Many municipalities exceeding 30 thousand population sought city status. In 1968 (Showa 43), the Meiji Centenary, delegates of such municipalities gathered at a nationwide meeting for the achievement of new city status, appealing governmental approval of city status for 30 thousand population entities. The gathering was called the Shin-shisei-jitsugen-zenkoku-kiseikai. The Kiseikai held its general meeting on July 18 resolving to plea for enactment of a special exemption law of regarding city status. After two years of continuous endeavor, a partial amendment of the Local Autonomy Law passed the House of Councilors on March 4, 1970 (Showa 45) allowing the establishment of a 30 thousand population city.

Tokyo Metropolitan Government's estimate for Fussa City's population finally exceeded 37 thousand in 1970 ( Showa 45), 30 years after Fussa's gaining town status. Fussa town gained approval for city status under the Ministry of Home Affairs in its first case application.



*Fig.285 Nationwide general meeting for new city status (Kiseikai), Conference Room, Fussa Town Hall, 1968 (Showa 43). The general meeting was held on July 18 to advance the movement.*

Fussa City was born on July 1, 1970 (Showa 45) with the population of 38,749, living in 11,631 households.

## 45.2 Occupation by the United States Armed Forces

On September 4, 1945 (Showa 20), one company of the U.S No.1 Trooper Division, stationed at Tama Airfield, then No.2 Air Force Transport Corps was also stationed. After airfield requisition, the runway was largely modified. The following year, the Air Force No.3 Bomber Corps, previously stationed at the Atsugi Base, arrived. The same day Yokota US Air Base formally opened, whose name originated from the district name of then Murayama Town (Musashimurayama City).

Many workers were mobilized after the US armed forces being stationed. Local people tentatively entered the Air Base, obtaining handed-out cigarettes, chewing gum, etc. while they worked. The number of citizens living near Fussa Station, who learned English, gradually increased.

## 45.3 Expansions of the local military base

The air base was expanded several times during the Korean War, which broke out in 1950 (Showa 25). In 1960 (Showa 35), the runway and its overshoot zone were extended and an expansion site and an aviation obstacle-free zone (50 hectares) at the north side of the base was also provided. The total site area grew to 700 hectares and the runway length reached 3,350 meters. That scale is almost the same as the present air base dimensions. To accommodate air base enlargement, the Itsukaichi Highway was shifted at its south boundary and Route 16 and the Hachiko Line were shifted at its north boundary.

In May, 1971 (Showa 46), the fighter corps moved to an air base in Okinawa, depriving this facility of its fighter base role. Instead the base



Fig.286 Letter Ornament of Municipal government enforcement memorial Fussa City at No.1 Elementary School schoolground.



began to function as a commissariat base. This base's importance grew due to the Vietnam War's escalation. Presently the Yokota Air Base is the largest USAF base in the main islands of Japan. The US Forces Japan Headquarters and No.5 Air Force Headquarters are stationed at Yokota Air Base and this air base functions as the transportation hub of the Far East.

#### 45.4 Fussa and Yokota Air Base

Considering Fussa's transfiguration alongside the Air Base, three periods are evident. The first is the Showa 20s, during which many controversies arose through Fussa being an occupied air base stationing city. After USAF stationing and air base expansion construction, the population sharply increased. Repatriates from foreign countries, construction workers, prostitutes, entertainment and amusement traders flowed into the city, raising problems including waste disposal, traffic congestion, inadequate fire fighting ability, declining public morality, and others.

The second stage is the Showa 30s when the Japan's postwar



Fig.287 Yokota Air Base (1954, Showa 29). The building at the bottom of the picture is the old Kumagawa Branch of the Japanese Army Air Service (Kumagawa Storehouse).

rehabilitation gathered order after the postwar confusion. Urban infrastructure was encouraged and the future course of city policy was determined in this period. Economic development tended to concentrate population in the Metropolitan area. As this movement increased, the Santama region leaned toward urbanization, influencing Fussa City. Thus, the Fussa Urban Plan was issued in 1956 (Showa 31) to form a new urban city.

In 1963 (Showa 38), the Kamidaira land readjustment project was approved. Public infrastructure such as roads, waterworks, Fussa Station square, post offices, telegraph offices, police stations and other facilities were newly constructed or rebuilt in this period. The rapid population growth brought other urgent issues and financial difficulties such as a need to build or extend elementary and middle school buildings.

The form of the city changed markedly in this period. City funds were expended in proportion to urbanization and deficits grew. In 1965 (Showa 40), the city fell into insolvency, the situation continuing for two years until the Local Government Financial Reconstruction Law's repeal in 1967 (Shows 42). During this period, city hall tried hard to cut expenses.

The third stage is the period since 1965 (Showa 40). After the Local Government Financial Reconstruction Law's repeal, city hall endeavored to secure the financial sources in order to shore up city finances.

Various efforts went into acquiring revenue. A law concerning



*Fig.288 View of the Yokota Air Base from the roof of the Town Hall (1949, Showa 24). The white building on the left end of the picture was the Buyo Credit Union (presently this place corresponds to the site of the Municipal Mokusei Hall).*



*Fig.289 Kamidaira district land readjustment project (1960s, Showa 40s). This was the north border zone, area about 66 ha.*



development around the defense facilities was enacted in 1966 (Showa 42) including a subsidy paid to municipalities surrounding the base for the development of the public welfare facilities. Furthermore, the United States Forces facilities were concentrated to Yokota Air Base according to the change of current world situation. Further enrichment of social resources came with the enactment of the Living Environment Law in 1974 (Showa 49).

Yokota Air Base occupies 32.4 percent of Fussa City's area and its existence is a major obstacle for urban development. However, 75 percent of citizens approve of its existence according to the citizen opinion survey. Based on prevailing conditions, continuous efforts are maintained to enrich and develop of the citizen's living circumstances. Presently, the world situation is in a phase of dramatic changes. Such changes in world trends influence the existence of Yokota Air Base.

#### 45.5 Enactment of the Citizen's Charter

The Citizen's Charter was announced at the City Organization 10th anniversary on July 1, 1980 (Showa 55). The background of the enactment of the Citizen's Charter was the lack of connectivity and unity between citizens. Due to rapid urbanization and change in the ideas and life styles of the citizenry, an increase was detected in citizenry lacking of interest in their district and the city. Therefore city hall enacted the Citizen's Charter as a core for citizen cooperation and actualization toward the more vital citizen-based municipality.



*Fig.290 Ten representative Fussa scenes " The Tama River bank's road side cherry trees". The city-assigned ten representative scenes of Fussa City in 1991 (Heisei 3). This river bank is the most famous cherry-blossom viewing place. A view of the Tama River with harmonized cherry blooming is really overwhelming. Many people visit here during the Cherry Festival.*

### Fussa Citizen's Charter

We can be confident that Fussa City, scenic mountains to the west, the Tama River rushing by to the south, set on the Musashino Plateau where rich groves of mixed trees and fields of mulberry trees flourish, will continue to develop thanks to the on-going devotion of its citizens. Through our Citizen's Charter we declare our love for our city and hometown, our wish for lasting peace, and our striving for a vital citizen-led town.

1. We desire rich and agreeable living through healthy body and mind.
2. We respect the aged while striving to raise the child healthily within a happy family.
3. We care for nature and raise flowers and trees for a greener city.
4. We elevate our culture to become a culturally mature city.
5. We make a happier city for all the people within by mutual familiarity and cooperation.

## 45.6 The sixty thousand citizen milestone

The population estimate for Fussa City for the 21st century is about 60 thousand, though 4 thousand years ago there were only 50 people living in this area. The population steadily grew to 10 thousand in middle 20th century 1946 (Showa 21), then in the final 50 years of the last century, Fussa City became a dormitory suburb for commuters to the metropole Tokyo.

The world population has by now reached six billion though 20

Population (unit:hundred million)

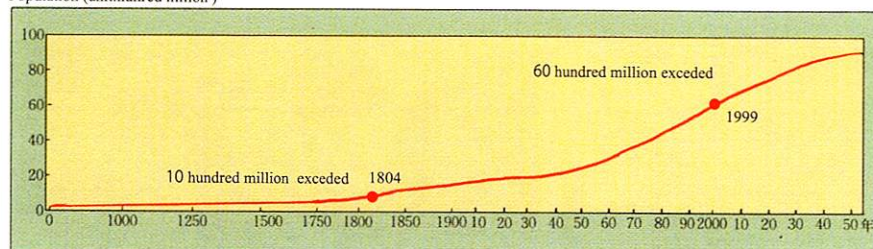


Fig.291 Global population trend and future estimate.

Population

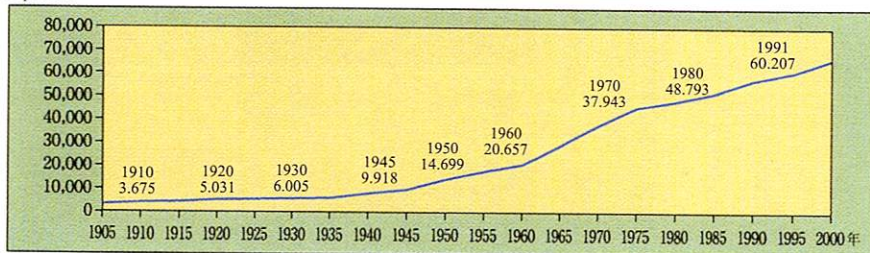


Fig.292 Fussa City's population trend and future estimate.



centuries ago it was just 300 million people. The population first exceeded a billion in the 19th century then mushroomed over the 20th century. Now it is increasing by 80 million per year or more. Various problems including aging society, population differentials, food and employment difficulties, environmental problems and other issues need solutions.

Since 1993 (Heisei 5), the population over 65 years of age has increased yearly, on the other hand, the population younger than 14 years has gradually decreased, so society ages rapidly progresses. Considering the population of Fussa City divided into three ranges (under 14 years, productive population between 15 and 64 years and the aged population over 65 years), the younger and productive populations decrease gradually, but aged population increases. The number of children per family and the aged families steadily increase also in Fussa City.

#### 45.7 The global era, KIMURA Kumajiro and MORITA Koichi

The number of foreigners visiting Japan has increased as there are opportunities for Japanese to go abroad, hence internationalism as a



Fig.293 A New Year's card from Kumajiro addressed to his family in Fussa (1907 (Meiji 40)).

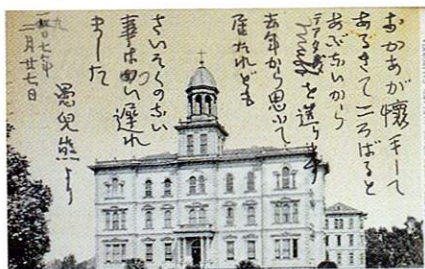


Fig.294 Post card from Kumajiro addressed to his mother in Fussa (1907 (Meiji 40)). It is written that he would send a muff to her on this occasion.



Fig.295 Kumajiro near San Francisco (1890s, Meiji 30s). The person at far right is presumed to be KIMURA Kumajiro.

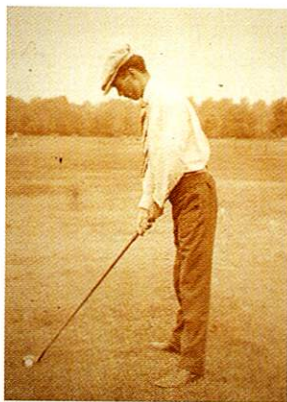
fact of daily life has been developing. The number of Japanese travelling abroad has tripled from 10 years ago while that of Japanese workers living abroad has also increased with Japan's growth in commercial investment abroad.

Concurrently the number of foreigners visiting Japan increased 60 percent from 10 years ago. Fussa outnumbers other Tama municipalities in the alien registrations and exceeds even the metropolis Tokyo's mean value.

Some pioneers went abroad from Fussa to participate in various fields before the advent of contemporary internationalism. One such pioneer was KIMURA Kumajiro, the eldest son of a Fussa Village farmer, born February 9, 1867 (Keio 3). He entered the US while young, acquiring Christian influence while studying in hardship. Returning to Japan, he helped to disseminate Christianity in Japan and Dalian, China.

A letter from Kumajiro, written in 1906 (Meiji 39) points to his arrival in the US at age 27 in 1893 (Meiji 26), then his wandering various countries and reentering the US in 1902 (Meiji 35). He stayed in the US for four years and eight months until 1906. Working his way through school, he felt his religious faith deepen in the San Francisco area. As a student, boarding with an American family, he awoke at 6 a.m. worked from 8:30, went to school then returned at 4 p.m. to work again from 7:30 or 8 p.m.

He left day school in 1907 (Meiji 40) to work evening shifts between afternoon and night school attendances. He earned \$407.65 that year, corresponding to more than 800 yen, of which remitted 100 yen to his



*Fig.296 MORITA Koichi enjoying golf in the US. (1918 or 1919 (Taisho 7 or 8)).*



mother and 10 yen to his Fussa Village association subscription.

Another pioneer traveler abroad from Fussa was MORITA Koichi, the eldest son of Taizo and Michiko, born 1891 (Meiji 24). He was renowned as a child prodigy after the founding of Kumagawa Village. In 1901 (Meiji 34), he entered the newly established Tokyo Municipal No.2 Middle School (the present Metropolitan Tachikawa High School). Proving his brilliance as a student there he went on through No.1 High School to Tokyo Imperial University. During his high school days, he shared the nanryo dormitory with YANAIHARA Tadao (later become Tokyo University president) and others. After studying botany in the university he went on to graduate school.

The MORITA family prospered in the late Meiji and early Taisho Period. In 1906 (Meiji 39), the Morita Silk Mill exhibited silk yarn in the St. Louis Exposition, receiving a silver medal for excellence in silk yarn. In 1910 (Meiji 43) in San Francisco an exchange took place between Morita Silk Mill and KIMURA Kumajiro. The latter sent Morita some salmon cartons (88 cartons, each containing 15 salmon) for payment of 220 yen.

Koichi's long-cherished desire was to study in the US. In the winter of 1918 (Taisho 7), he finally got his wish to go abroad to study at John Hopkins University, Baltimore (north of Washington D.C.). But in the winter of 1920 (Taisho 9), he contracted Spanish influenza as it overwhelmed the world. In spite of treatment at John Hopkins University Hospital he died at age 30 on February 8 that year.

## 45.8 Historical recognition and global communication

Numerous global environmental problems including global warming, tropical rain forest depletion, acid rain, ozone layer depletion and others are recently becoming evident. Problematic global warming,



*Fig.297 MORITA Koichi at the laboratory at John Hopkins University. MORITA Koichi studied botany in 1918 or 1919 (Taisho 7 or 8).*



*Fig.298 Picture of MORITA Koichi. (Departure permit picture, 1918 (Taisho 7)).*

owing to the greenhouse effect and in turn to rising carbon dioxide emissions, is advancing along with energy consumption, a basis of economic activity. If left unchecked, environmental degradation might become even harder to restrain. Today, a global red alert is flashing.

Solutions to such regionally, nationally and globally dimensioned problems depend on action from each Fussa citizen as a member of the human beings. Global thinking is exactly needed in everyday life.

Directly having pursued material wealth, we must now seek a symbiosis between human and nature, not only for a more convenient life. It is not rare to see Japanese abroad for planting trees to hold back desert invasion. Such works are a natural part of a global respect for human life and dignity.

To coexist with people of different histories and cultures, it is necessary to deepen a mutual understanding, respect humanity and support each other. So, each individual must understand own culture and deepen the recognition of history. A global society can only arise through the respect for neighboring histories and cultures.



*Fig.299 Fussa City youth overseas dispatch project. In 1990 (Heisei 2) the youth overseas dispatch project was initiated with the dispatch of 12 of Fussa's middle school students to the USA to advance cultural interchange.*