THE NATIONAL ATLAS OF JAPAN

REVISED EDITION

Geographical Survey Institute
PRIME MINISTER’S MESSAGE


It is my sincere wish, that in this time of rapid change this volume will provide greater understanding of both Japan and the Japanese.

Toshiki Kaifu
Prime Minister of Japan
FOREWORD

The revised edition of “The National Atlas of Japan” has been completed. This comprehensive work is based on highly reliable surveys conducted by government agencies and local public bodies. It contains various information about subjects such as Japan’s natural environment, economy, society, and culture. I hope that it will be used by the Japanese in their homes and offices and also serve to fully introduce Japan to the world.

Tamisuke Watanuki
Minister of Construction
PREFACE

More than ten years have passed since Japan's first national atlas, "The National Atlas of Japan" was published. During this decade, Japan and the lifestyle and activities of the Japanese have changed greatly and relationships with the rest of the world have grown far closer. In addition, with our country becoming more information-oriented maps and atlases are playing a greater role as a basis for a variety of activities by the people. Under these circumstances, it gives us great pleasure to publish "The National Atlas of Japan, Revised Edition", containing the latest data.

A national atlas is, as its name implies, an atlas which represents a country. Since such an atlas must contain a wide range of information and knowledge, the Committee for the National Atlas of Japan, composed of representatives of the authorities concerned and other learned and experienced persons, was established and the atlas prepared on the basis of the Committee's discussions. As a result, this revised edition includes a total of 235 thematic maps and their descriptions in 14 fields, such as: nature, population, industry, trade, society, education and culture. Computer technology was used to expedite the preparation of the maps.

It is my hope that those engaged in administration, research, education, corporate activities, international cooperation, etc., and all members of society will fully utilize this atlas to gain a deeper understanding of the state of Japan.

Finally, I wish to extend my thanks, not only to the Committee for the National Atlas of Japan, but also to those who assisted with the preparation in various ways, such as providing data and advice.

Jinro Yamaguchi
Director General
Geographical Survey Institute
OUTLINE OF THE PREPARATION

1. History of the Preparation

The thematic preparation of thematic maps, which describe the state of a country, were carried out for the first time in Japan when the Geographical Survey Institute compiled land state maps on a scale of 1:100,000 in 1964. This project maps for a national basis such fields as land use, electricity, working population and urban functions, agriculture, traffic, and population density. However, these maps were not compiled into a single atlas. In 1968, "The Atlas of Japan," an A4-sized book of 44 pages containing three thematic maps (terrain, land use and census) and general maps on a scale of 1:1,500,000, it was considered an important step in the full-scale preparation of a national atlas.

Also in 1968, "The Atlas of Japan," an A4-sized book of 44 pages containing three thematic maps (terrain, land use and census) and general maps on a scale of 1:1,500,000, it was considered an important step in the full-scale preparation of a national atlas.

Furthermore, the atlas is bound in the same manner as an atlas, thus enabling users to remove or change individual sheets.

3. Computation of the Editing and Drawing

The major difference in the preparation processes of the first edition and the revised edition is in the revised edition the editing and drawing work, which was done manually in the past, was computerized wherever possible. Cheekery maps and pie charts were the main objects of computation.

4. Committee for the National Atlas of Japan

The Committee for the National Atlas of Japan was established in order to discuss the contents, composition, and expression of the National Atlas in order to make it widely available as basic information for land development and conservation, urban and international studies, education and other applications. The Chairperson of the Committee is Vice-Minister of Construction, while the other members are persons from the authorities concerned and other learned and experienced persons. Some members serve on an ad hoc basis.

In the case of the revision project of the National Atlas, Committee meetings were held twice to discuss the overall composition and an expert committee meeting held ten times to discuss technical matters.

5. Staff

The staff of "The National Atlas of Japan, Revised Edition" are as follows:

- Comprehensive planning and compilation: Geographical Survey Institute, Ministry of Construction

The maps were drafted by the following seven map preparation committees under the supervision of the Map Compilation Division of the Geographic Department of the Geographical Survey Institute: Koboku Map Inc., Shudo Chart Inc., Chou Chiro Inc., Niko Chiro Inc., Brucol Inc., Hokusai Chiro Inc., and Mekishima Map Printing Inc. The Atlas was printed and bound by Dai Nippon Printing Inc. under the supervision of the Japan Map Center. The paper used for the Atlas was supplied by Tatsuno Paper MFG Inc. The translation service was provided by Tsukuba Information Lab Inc. under the supervision of the Map Compilation Division.

COMMITTEE FOR THE NATIONAL ATLAS OF JAPAN

Chairperson: Vice-minister of Construction

Status as of March 31, 1980

Government Organization

Ordinary Members

Special Members

Director-General, Statistics Bureau
General Director
Director-General, Bureau of Defense Policy
Director-General, National Institute of Science and Technology Policy
Director-General, Planning and Coordination Bureau
Director-General, Land Use
Director, Institute of General Policy for Information and Cultural Affairs, Minister's Secretariat
Director, Minister's Secretariat
Director, Research Institute, Printing Bureau
Director-General, Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau
Director-General, Cultural Properties Protection Department
Director-General, Statistics and Information Management, Minister's Secretariat
Director-General, Institute of Population Problems
Assistant Vice Minister for Investigation, Minister's Secretariat
Director-General, Geographical Survey Institute

Director-General, Population Census Division, Social Survey Department
Director, Planning Office
Director, First Defense Intelligence Division
Head, Planning Division
Director, Environmental Management Division, Planning and Coordination Bureau
Director, Planning Division
Director, National Land Survey Division
Director, Overseas Public Information Division
Director, Research and Planning Division
Director, Resource Control Section, Research Control Division
Director, Testbook Division
Director, Newsroom and News Division
Director, Office of System Designing and Data Processing, Administration and Planning Division
Chief, Policy Study Section, Department of Population Policy Studies
Director, Resource Division
Director, Planning and Information Division
Director, Administrative Division
Director, Administrative Division
Director, Coastal Survey and Cartography Division
Head, Office of Statistics, Observation Management Division
Director, General Planning and Policy Division
Director, Industry and Labor Research Division
Director, Land Information Office, Department of Information and Communication
Special Director for Regional Planning and Project Coordination
Director, Research and Information Division
Director, Administrative Division
Director, Planning Division
Director, Geographic Department
Director, May Management Department
Director, Local Administrative Division

Special Members

Aozumi Osamu
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Takasu Kazutoki
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Sato Takeo
Professor, College of Science and Medicine, Nihon University
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