



Bridge to a Dream - A Brighter Future in the Chugoku Region



**Chugoku Regional Development Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport**

Overview of the Chugoku Region

Legend

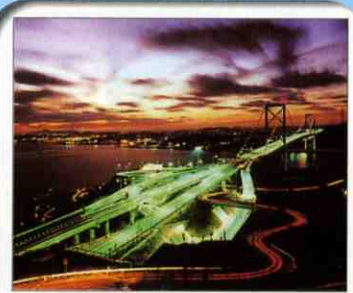
- High-standard trunk road
- National route (section under direct jurisdiction of the national government)
- Major river or basin
- Airport (projects under direct jurisdiction of the national government)
- Dam (project under direct jurisdiction of the national government)
- Administration Office/Survey Office, Chugoku Regional Development Bureau
- Port (project under direct jurisdiction of the national government)
- Prefectural border

(April 2003)



This shrine boasts a giant straw rope, 13 m long and weighing 15 tons, that looks as if it represents Izumo (Shimane Prefecture), depicted in the Kunibiki myth.

Izumo Taisha Shrine
Shimane



With a total length of 1,068 m, Kanmon Bridge (completed in 1973) is a suspension bridge connecting Kyushu with the mainland of Japan.

Kanmon Bridge
Yamaguchi



This bridge, regarded as one of the three most famous bridges in Japan, was originally built in 1673. This unique and highly sophisticated five-arched wooden bridge is said to have no negative factors in terms of modern bridge engineering.

Kintai-kyo Bridge
Yamaguchi



Miyajima of Aki, one of the three most scenic spots in Japan, is famous for its vermilion-painted torii gate, and Itsukushima Shrine in the 12th-century architectural style, reflected in the sea.

Miyajima Itsukushima Shrine
Hiroshima



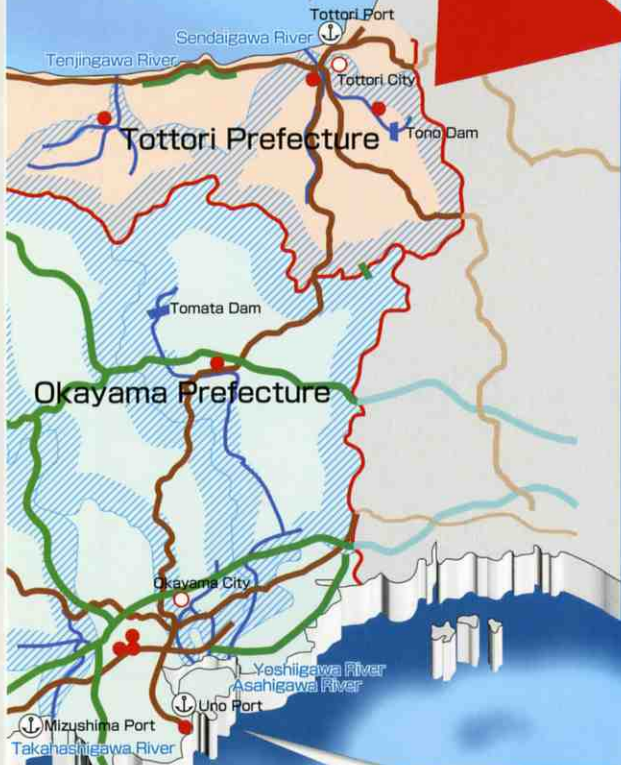
The Dome commemorates the dropping of the first atomic bomb in history used against a civilian population on August 6, 1945. The Dome was registered on UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage list as a symbol of Hiroshima's pledge to seek lasting world peace.

The A-Bomb Dome
Hiroshima



Karo Port is one of Japan's major fishing ports and renowned for Matsuba crabs.

Tottori Port (Karo Port)
Tottori



The streets along the Kurashiki River, where boats of various sizes piled during the Edo period (1600 - 1868), have been designated as Important Cultural Properties by the national government.

Streets of Kurashiki City
Okayama



This bridge was opened to traffic in 1988 to link Shikoku and Honshu, Japan's largest land mass. With a total length of 9,368 m, it consists of six bridge sections and four viaducts. The whole route is a double-decker construction, with an expressway running above a railway.

Seto-Ohashi Bridge
Okayama



Location of the Chugoku Region

Japan is an island nation that lies off the eastern coast of the Asian continent and comprises four major islands-Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu-covering an area of approximately 380,000 km² with a population of roughly 120 million.

The Chugoku region is located at the southwestern part of Honshu Island and occupies 32,000 km² (8.4% of the total land area of Japan), with a population of 7.7 million (6.1% of the total).

Access to the Chugoku Region

The Chugoku region can be easily accessed from most major cities of the world. There are regular direct flights from Seoul and Hong Kong to Hiroshima and Okayama International Airports, as well as shinkansen super express train and domestic air services from Tokyo (Haneda International), Osaka and Fukuoka International Airports to various cities in the region.

Economy of the Chugoku Region

Major industries in the Chugoku region are steel, petrochemical and shipbuilding, which were established during Japan's economic high-growth era of the 1960's. Centered in industrial complexes on the coast of the Inland Sea are located today's major growing industries such as automobile manufacturing and education-related businesses.

In 2000, Japan's GDP totaled 498 trillion yen, about 6% of which was accounted for by the Chugoku Region.

History of the Chugoku Region

Historically, the Chugoku region was characterized by its as a "contact point" between the Asian mainland and Nara and Kyoto, the ancient seats of the Japanese central government. The region was once governed by the Choshu clan, which produced many distinguished patriots who contributed to the Meiji Restoration. The region is also known for Omori Ginzan, where silver production once accounted for a major portion of the world output. The destruction of Hiroshima City by the first atomic bomb on August 6, 1945 is well-known. Today, Hiroshima is a thriving city, active in the preservation of world peace. It has been designated as "Peace City".

Climate/Natural Disasters

The Chugoku Region can be divided into two areas: Sanyo (western Honshu, facing the Inland Sea) and Sanin (western Honshu, facing the Japan Sea). When comparing the climates of both areas, the annual average temperature in Sanin is one or two degrees lower than in Sanyo.

Average Temperature in January (°C)
Matsue 3.7 Hiroshima 5.9
Average Temperature in August
Matsue 26.5 Hiroshima 28.4 (1999)

The Sanin Region has high rainfall in winter, Sanyo in summer.

In late June 1999, a torrential rainstorm struck the Chugoku Region. In Hiroshima Prefecture, 31 people were killed or reported as missing, and damages in monetary terms from the disaster totaled 67 billion yen. In addition, disasters caused by severe winds, storms and floods have occurred 7 times over the past 30 years and damages have exceeded 50 billion yen.

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River Projects

Carrying out river works to satisfy public water demands with flood control, water utilization, and environmental conservation

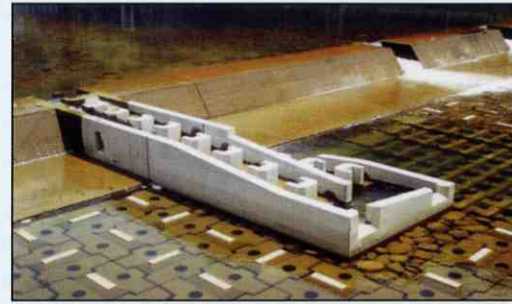
With the aim of managing, utilizing and preserving water, the CRDB promotes river projects with the cooperation of local communities. The projects include river improvement, erosion and sediment control, seacoast protection, and the construction and management of dams, all under the direct jurisdiction of the national government. In addition, the CRDB supports improvement projects and subordinate projects of the rivers under the jurisdiction of local authorities as well as conducts technical reviews.



Nukui Dam
This dam was constructed for flood control and river flow regulation on the lower reaches of the Otagawa River, and supplies water to 4 cities and 21 towns in Hiroshima Prefecture. This multipurpose dam is the second tallest arch-dam in Japan.

Improvement of the Otagawa River to preserve the environment for fishes

River improvement work is underway on the Otagawa River to ensure an environment that enables fish to easily travel up and down the river. After completion of the work, fish will be able to go from the mouth of the Otagawa River, located in an urban area, upstream to higher reaches of the river in the mountains.



The Otagawa River runs through Hiroshima, a city of over one million people.

The CRDB aims to protect cities from floods and high tidal waves, to create a water environment suitable for "Water Capital Hiroshima," and to promote river works in concert with local development plans.

Road Projects

Creating a new Chugoku Region through the promotion of exchanges and cooperation

The CRDB is engaged in construction, improvement, and management of national roads, which are essential to the promotion of closer cooperation between regions and efficient physical distribution. It also supports subordinate projects under the jurisdiction of local authorities and conducts technical reviews.



Sanin Expressway



Minohara double-loop road

Minohara is a mountainous area located near the boundary of Hiroshima and Shimane Prefectures. A bottleneck once existed on Route 314 connecting both sides. The CRDB constructed this double-loop shaped road with eleven bridges and four tunnels in the area to smooth traffic on this route.

Legend

National expressway	In operation
	Under construction
	Under survey
	In location planning
Motorways running parallel to national expressways	In operation
	Under construction
National motorway	In operation
	Under construction

Total road length in the Chugoku region (km)

National roads	5,921.50
Prefectural roads	14,017.50
Municipal roads	80,456.10
Total	100,395.10

April 2000

High-standard trunk road (expressway) network in the Chugoku region

The Chugoku region is equipped with a fine expressway and freeway network, ensuring high-speed transportation and promoting physical distribution, industries, and exchanges.



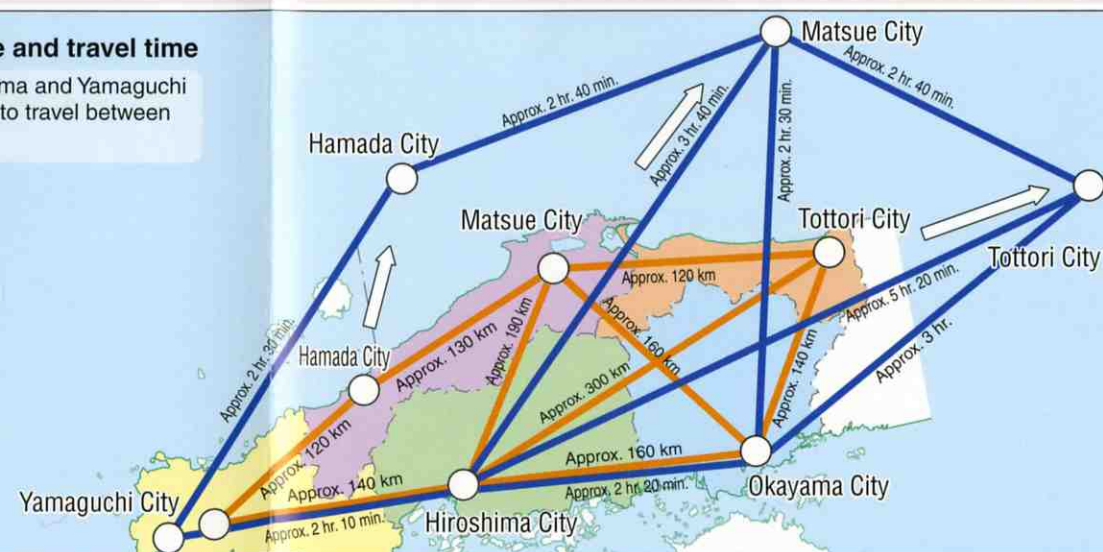
Relationship between physical distance and travel time

It takes about 4.5 hours to travel between Okayama and Yamaguchi in the Sanyo region, while it takes about 8 hours to travel between Tottori and Yamaguchi in the Sanin region.

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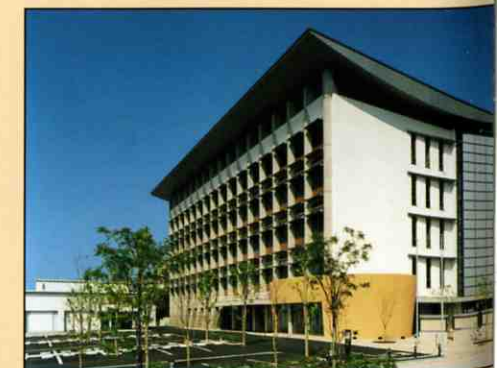
Physical distance
Travel time

※ Figures on the map indicate road distance.



Government

Public facilities attractive to... The CRDB has been engaged in the building of administrative services, and offers counseling



Construction of an eco-friendly government building (Izumo regional government building)

water demands with flood control, preservation

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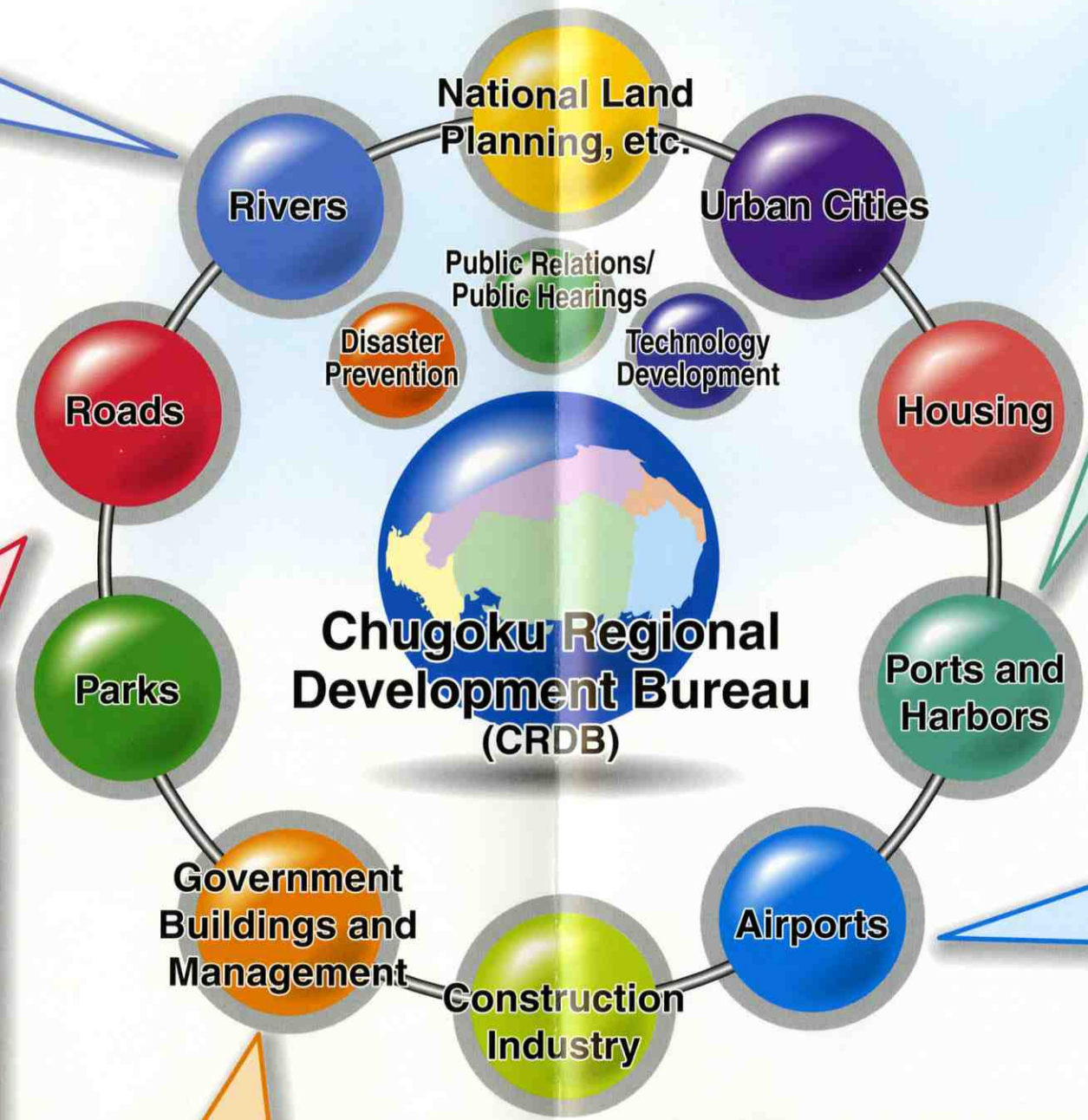
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Port and Harbor

Creating ports and harbors open to the world to high quality of life

In Japan, more than 99% of imports, such as energy, food and raw materials, come in through ports. To reduce physical distribution costs, enrich the lives of the people and strengthen industrial competitiveness, the CRDB has been working on improving ports and harbors. In these port and harbor improvement projects, moreover, efforts are being made toward environmental conservation, including the restoration of tidelands and marine forests.



Airport Projects

Creating a global network to link Japan to the rest

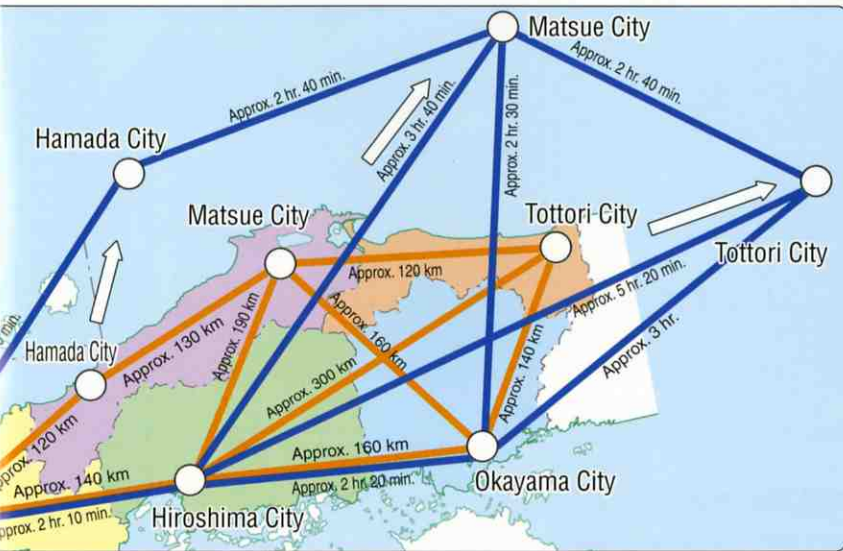
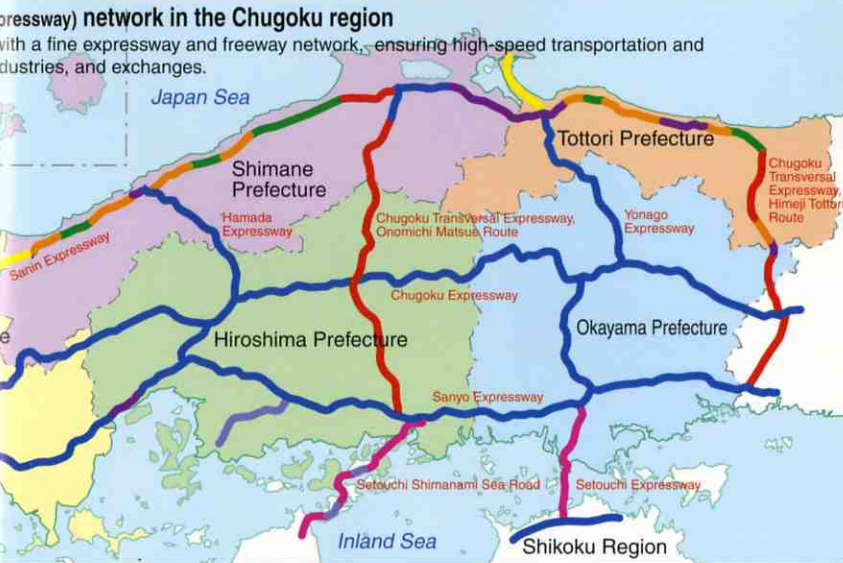
The air transport system in Japan plays an increasingly important role in transporting people as well as electronic parts and perishable goods. There is a growing demand for an enhanced air transportation network and high-speed and high-capacity airplanes. In response to these demands, the CRDB is promoting the improvement of airport facilities in order to enhance safety, functionality, and user comfort.



Hiroshima Airport

International Flight

Airline route
Yonago to Seoul
Okayama to Seoul
Okayama to Shanghai
Okayama to Guangzhou
Hiroshima to Seoul
Hiroshima to Shanghai
Hiroshima to Xiamen
Hiroshima to Singapore
Hiroshima to Hanoi
Hiroshima to Doha
Hiroshima to Bangkok



Government Building Projects

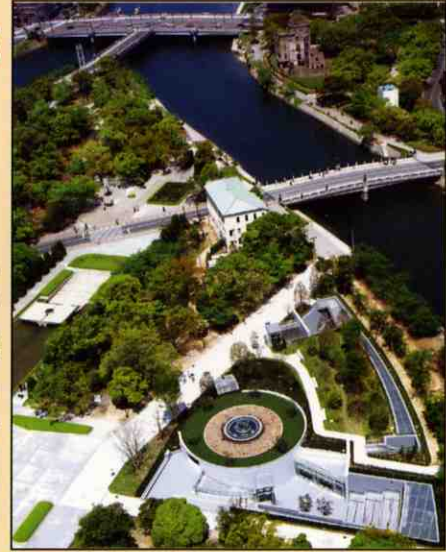
Public facilities attractive to local communities

The CRDB has been engaged in the building and improvement of national facilities to provide administrative services, and offers counseling to these facilities to ensure their appropriate function.



Construction of an eco-friendly government building (Izumo regional government building)

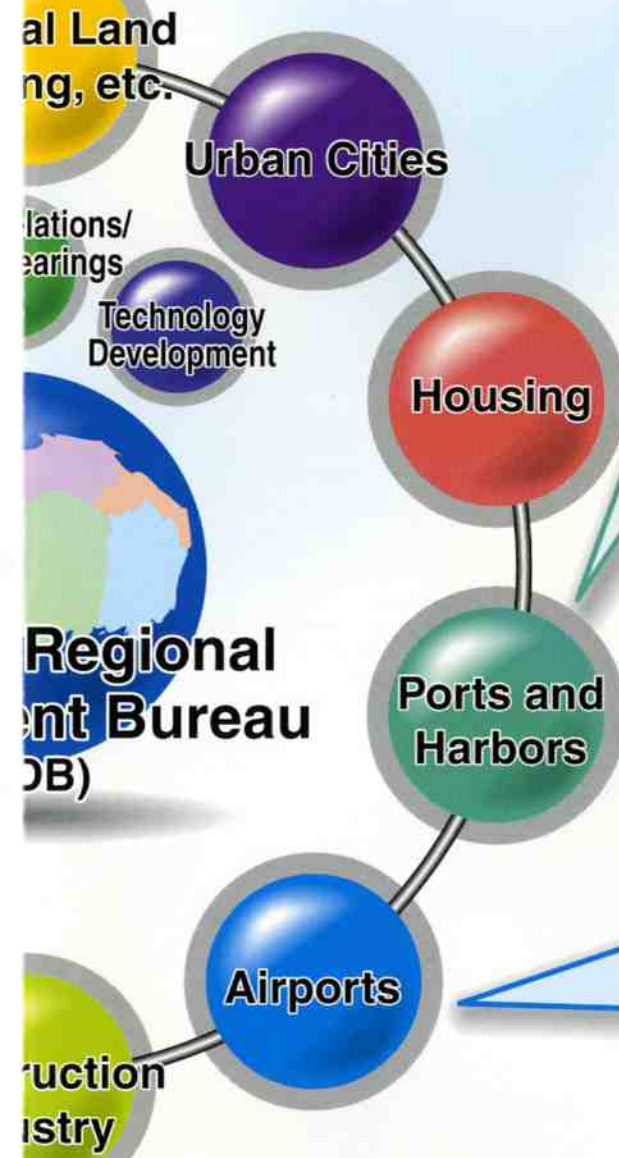
In 2002, the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims was constructed at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park as a symbol of Japan's desire for genuine and lasting peace in the world. The park serves as a place to pay tribute to the memory of the atomic bomb victims and pray for world peace, as well as a recreation and relaxation area for all people.



Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims (Hiroshima City)

History of t

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Port and Harbor Projects

Creating ports and harbors open to the world to bring about a high quality of life

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Container Terminal, Hiroshima Port (Kaita District)

Airport Projects

Creating a global network to link Japan to the rest of the world

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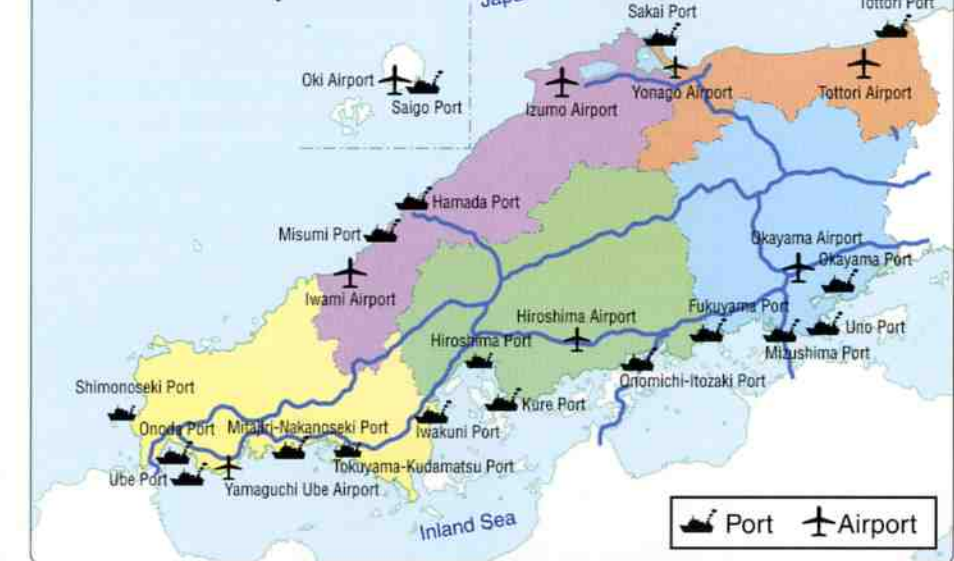


Hiroshima Airport

International Flight Services in the Chugoku Region (February 2003)

Airline route	No. of flights per week
Yonago to Seoul	3
Okayama to Seoul	5
Okayama to Shanghai	3
Okayama to Guam	2
Hiroshima to Seoul	9
Hiroshima to Singapore	4
Hiroshima to Hong Kong	2
Hiroshima to Xian	4
Hiroshima to Shanghai	4
Hiroshima to Honolulu	2
Hiroshima to Dalian	2
Hiroshima to Beijing	2

Location of Airports/Ports

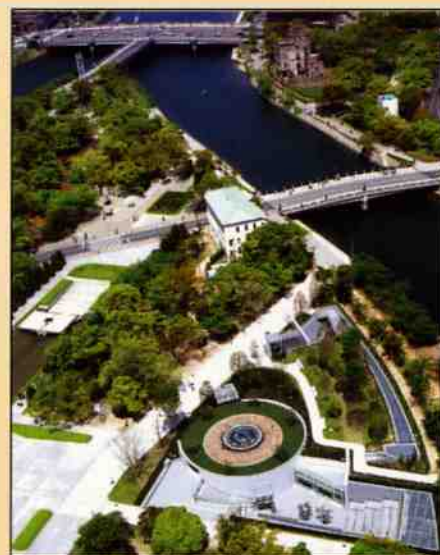


Public Building Projects

Supporting local communities

Planning and improvement of national facilities to provide these facilities to ensure their appropriate function.

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Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims (Hiroshima City)

History of the CRDB

The four following former ministries and agencies, the Hokkaido Development Agency, the National Land Agency, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Construction, were integrated to create the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT), which was newly established on Jan. 6, 2001.

In the Chugoku Region, the Regional Construction Bureau of the Ministry of Construction and the Ports and Harbors Construction Bureau of the Ministry of Transport were integrated into the Chugoku Regional Development Bureau (CRDB), as part of the government reorganization. The CRDB is newly engaged in clerical and administrative work concerning city administration, housing administration, land expropriation, construction industry administration, port administration, and subsidiary payment, as well as conventional projects under direct jurisdiction of the former two bureaus, such as projects for rivers/dams, roads, parks, government buildings and management, ports, harbors and airports.

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Organizational Chart

