

Tokyo

Tokyo–Yokohama, with a population of over 28 million, is the world's most populous metropolitan area. The city of Tokyo (population 7,840,000) is the administrative, financial, educational, and cultural centre of Japan and a major industrial hub surrounded by numerous suburban manufacturing complexes. Tokyo is also one of the world's most important cities in terms of economic power and influence, and it serves as the corporate and communications hub for the Eastern Pacific Rim.

Archaeological evidence indicates that the site of Tokyo was once inhabited by Stone Age tribes. The present city was founded in the 12th century as the village of Edo.

In 1603, Edo became the capital of the hereditary rulers, the shoguns; the imperial capital, however, remained at Kyoto. Although the city prospered as a commercial and cultural centre, it later declined as the shogunate weakened. In 1868, the shogun surrendered to the imperial forces. The emperor was restored to power and made Edo his capital, renaming the city Tokyo.

In accordance with the city's world position, Tokyo's economy has shifted to put much more emphasis on financial services and banking. The city is also an important wholesale centre. Among its diverse industries are the manufacture of electronic apparatus, transport equipment, automobiles, cameras and optical goods, furniture, textiles, and a wide variety of consumer items, as well as publishing and printing.

The world's first public monorail line runs between downtown Tokyo and nearby Haneda international airport (Narita International is Tokyo's main airport).

The city also claims the highest (333 m) steel-supported structure of its type in the world, the Tokyo Tower, built in 1958.