

Kyushu business groups and local governments are actively promoting investment from other areas of Japan and from abroad, in part because Kyushu must decrease its dependence on industries that are vulnerable to import liberalization. Namely, agricultural production and the steel and shipbuilding industries which face competition from other Asian countries enjoying lower labour costs.

High technology is one of the most appealing sectors for Kyushu in its bid to diversify.

From the potential investor's perspective, Kyushu's advantages as a region are:

- a supply of skilled labour and lower wage rates: the average monthly wage rates are 27 per cent lower than those in Tokyo, according to 1988 statistics;
- land costs comparable with those in Canada: the cost of land suitable for setting up plants is about 80 per cent lower than for similar sites in the Tokyo area;
- easy access to international airports;
- high standard of living, moderate climate, relaxed pace of life and ample recreational facilities.

Kyushu has already secured industrial investment. Over the last several years it has attracted companies at a rate of 5 per cent above the national average.

## Major Projects

Almost 12.6 per cent of the nation's public works projects take place in Kyushu. Compared with the national average, the projects are more heavily weighted toward agriculture and forestry (13.9 per cent versus 9.6 per cent), river conservation (10.3 per cent versus 9.7 per cent), and harbours and airports (6.3 per cent versus 4 per cent).

A number of major projects still in the planning stages are expected to bring significant benefits to Kyushu. Current passenger and cargo projections strongly indicate that Fukuoka must start planning now for a new international airport that can be ready for business within 10 years. Committees are now studying the question of location; a decision should be made by spring 1991.

Future plans include an undersea tunnel to link Kyushu and Shikoku. Other projects are shown in Table 14.

**Table 14**

### Public Works Projects in Kyushu

Project	Value (\$ billion)	Completion Date	Location
Twin Dome (Hawks)	2.5	1992	Fukuoka
Beppu-Kuju Resort	2.0	2000	Oita
Kyushu Asia Land	1.5	1994	Fukuoka
Seaside Momachi	0.9	1994	Fukuoka
Miyazaki New Town	0.9	1993	Miyazaki