

There are also several research parks either planned or already under construction in Chugoku. They include the following:

- The Hiroshima Central Technopolis in Kure, Hiroshima will house facilities for Hiroshima University, the Science and Technology Agency's Chugoku Research Institute, the Western Hiroshima Industrial Research Institute, and the National Brewing Research Institute.
- New facilities at the Ube Phoenix Technopolis in Ube, Yamaguchi are to include an ultra-high-temperature materials research centre.
- Kibi Plateau City, a research park located in Kibi, Okayama, houses the Hayashibara Biochemical Research Labs, an experimental science and exhibition centre and an agricultural training facility.
- On the drawing board are technopolis development plans featuring biotechnology and information processing facilities in Shimane and Tottori prefectures.

Chugoku is also the site of numerous infrastructure expansion projects. The most important is a second bridge linking the region with Shikoku. The bridge will bring Shikoku into Chugoku's economic sphere and will promote further economic development in both regions.

New expressways linking Matsue City in Shimane with Onomichi in Hiroshima, Tottori with Himeji (near Kobe), and Okayama with Yonago in Tottori prefecture will enhance transportation routes between Chugoku's Inland Sea and Sea of Japan regions. In addition, there are plans for a route running southwest along the Japan Sea coast to the Chugoku expressway near Yamaguchi. The Chugoku expressway is also slated for improvement and expansion.

New airports under construction in central Hiroshima and western Shimane are scheduled for completion in 1993.

5 Summary and Recommendations

Once part of Japan's industrial heartland, Chugoku has been hard hit by the decline in its leading industries — shipbuilding, steel and petrochemicals. The region is looking to new fields such as robotics, biotechnology, electronics, advanced materials, and marine resource development to restore economic stability.

Internationalization is considered key to future development, and the Hiroshima International Center Foundation has become an important venue for international conferences.

The challenge for Canadian business is to take full advantage of the opportunities which Chugoku offers. These include excellent prospects for increased resource exports, and in particular for Canadian thermal and coking coal, 2 x 4 lumber, log housing systems, and hardwood furniture.

As Chugoku redevelops its economy, Canadian exporters could benefit from a rise in demand for auto parts, processed foods and for resort design and development expertise.